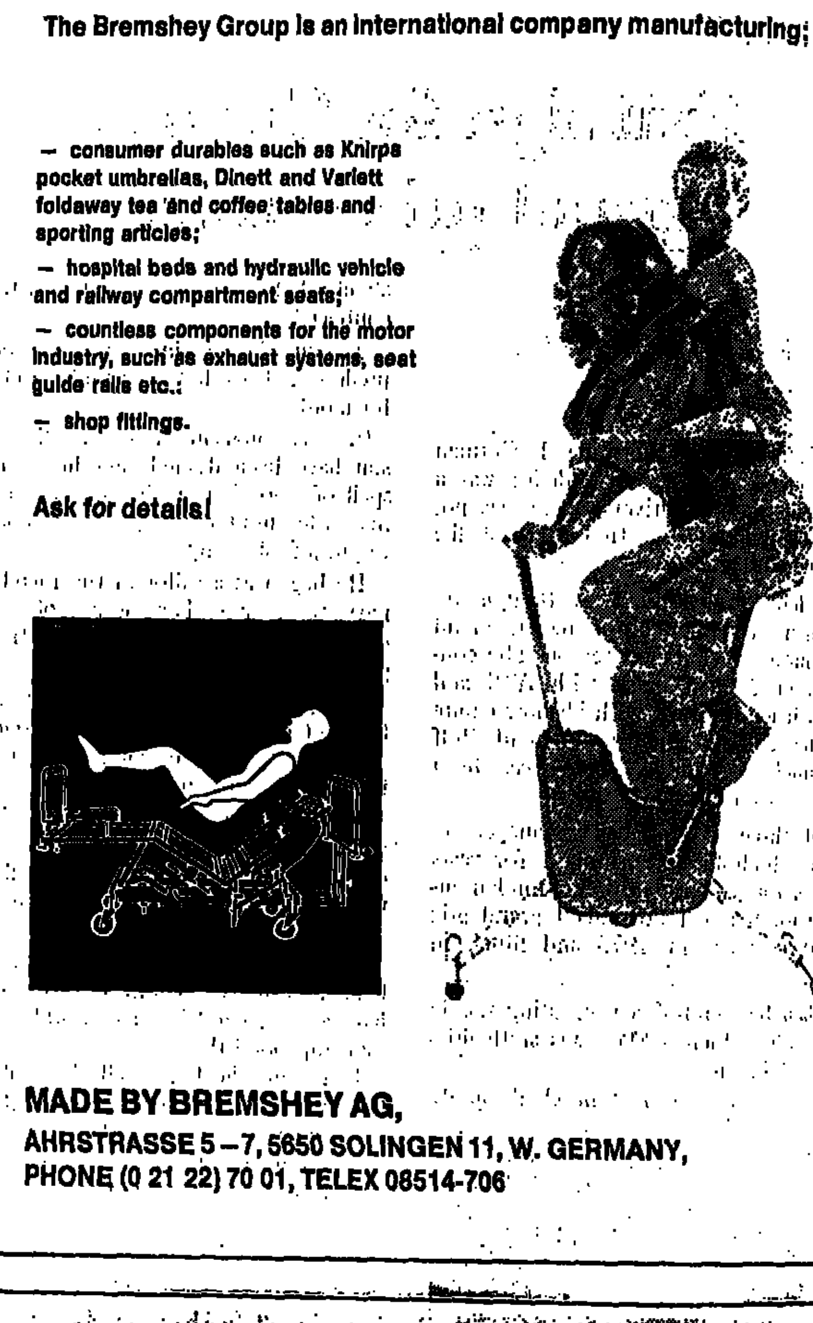
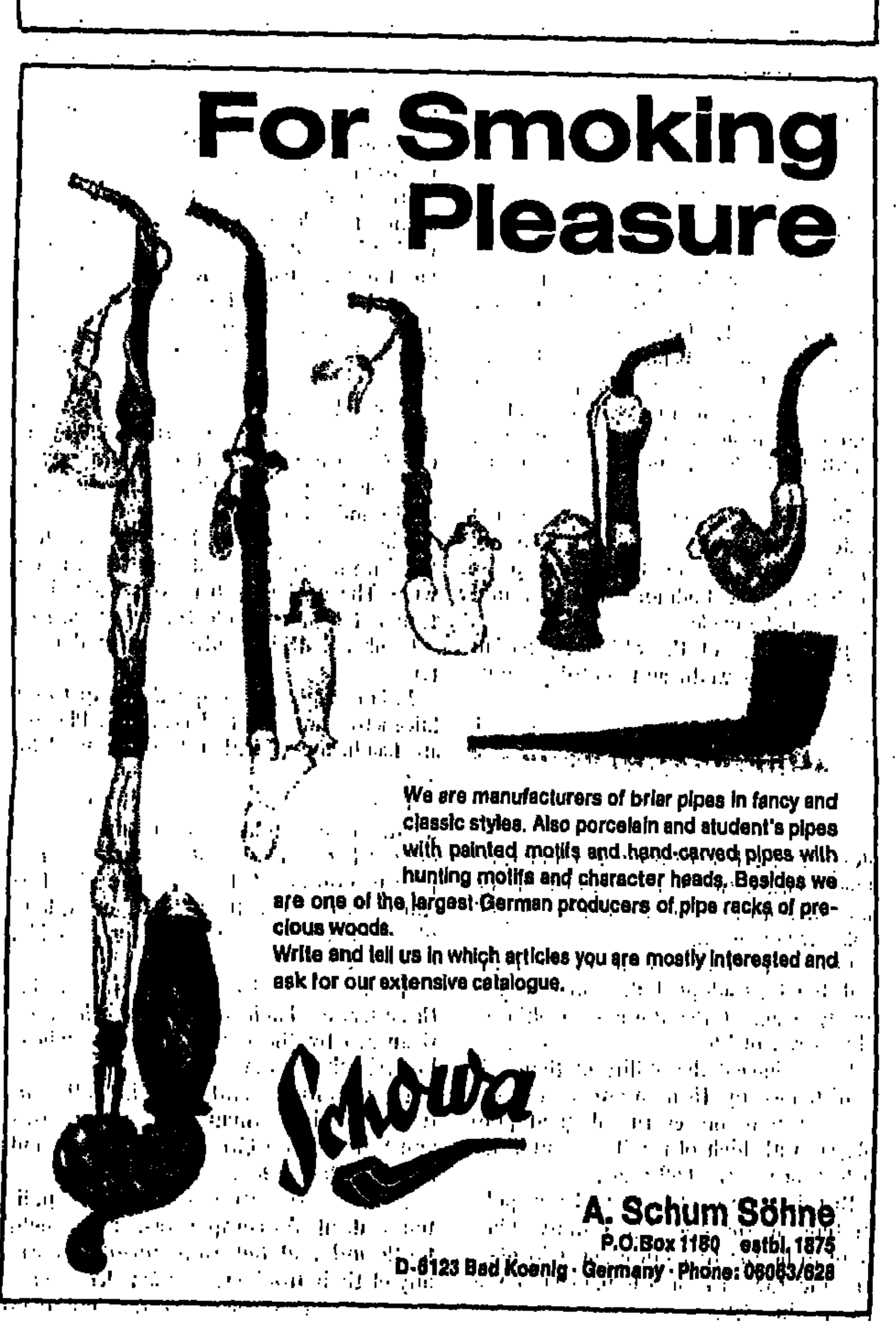
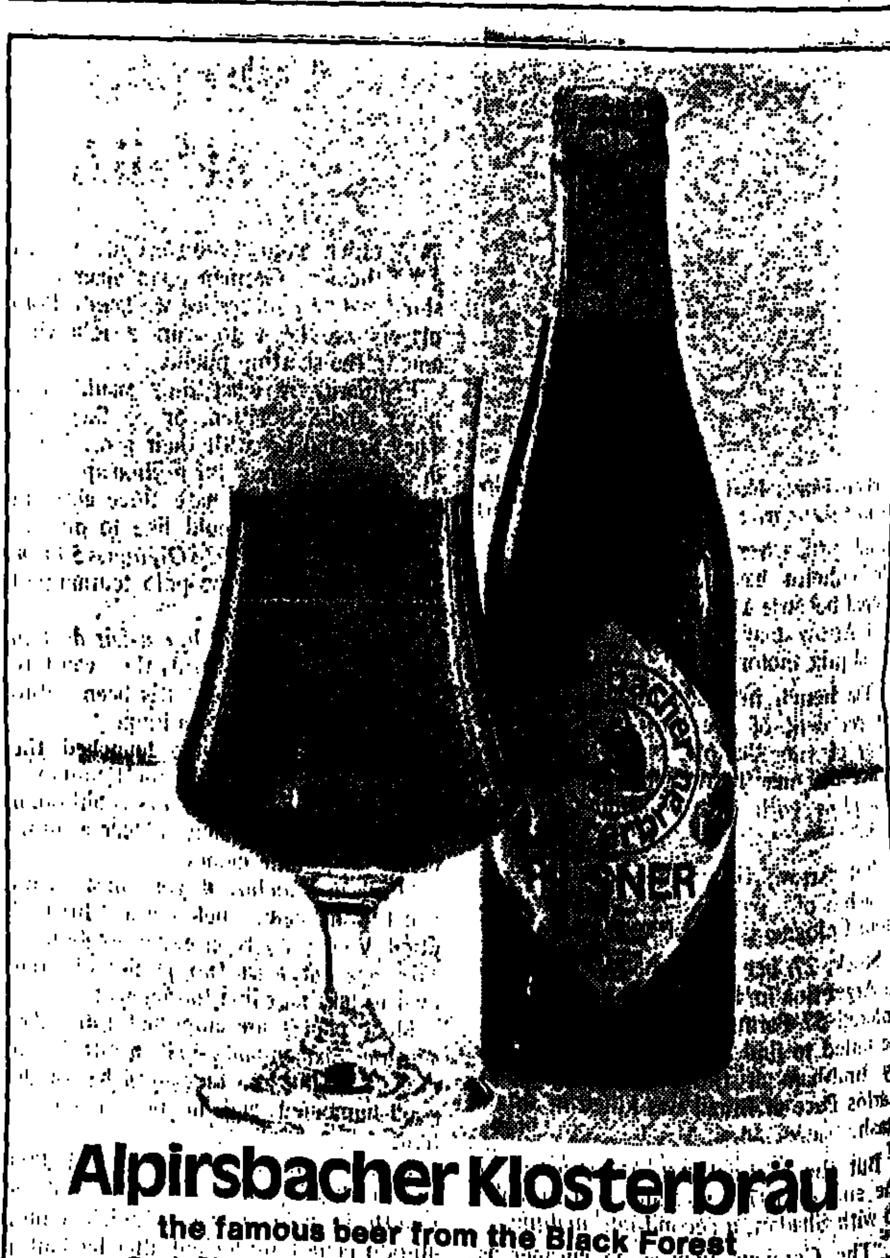






The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 20 August 1978
Seventeenth Year - No. 853 - By air

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Anxiety grows on arms deadlock

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Everybody talks about disarmament but nobody disarms. Despite what East and West are pleased to call detente the arms race continues unabated.

Salt 1, the strategic arms limitation agreement between Washington and Moscow, did not reduce superpower military capacity; indeed, it hardly hampered further expansion.

The Vienna MBFR talks on troop cuts in Central Europe are marking time and an increasing number of countries have joined the arms race in recent years.

The oil-rich Arab countries and Iran have gone in for military hardware in a big way.

It is enough to make peace research and disarmament specialists in the West, who for years have untiringly drawn up fresh blueprtints for a more peaceful world, gradually despair.

Their efforts are useless. No matter what they come up with, reality proves more powerful, a reality dominated, as ever, by mutual mistrust and lust for power.

The world's trouble spots are increasing in number, and the rule of unreason seems to be gaining ground, not giving way to an international order governed by peace and harmony.

This is the background against which the Social Democratic parliamentary party in the Bonn Bundestag has called on the government to appoint a Minister for Disarmament after the next elections.

The federal government already has a disarmament envoy, but he is only a medium-ranking Foreign Ministry official, and SPD MPs feel he is not enough. They say only a Minister carries enough weight to ensure that the country plays a more active part in disarmament and arms limitation, one of the most important roles Bonn could possibly play in world affairs.

The proposal is well-meant but of doubtful value. It is probably based on experience, over the past year or two, of a continual tug-of-war between the Foreign and Defence ministries and the Chancellor's Office on important aspects of arms and disarmament.

This has been due to a clash of experts' views frequently diametrically opposed. A Minister of State is now expected to lean towards political decisions.

In other words, Bonn ought sometimes to set aside security considerations and put forward proposals to further disarmament come what may.

This impatience is understandable, but impatience is a poor counsellor, especially now. Bonn cannot influence the Salt talks but does have a say at the MBFR conference in Vienna.

In Vienna the Soviet Union has consistently used delaying tactics, for years, rejecting each Western proposal and awaited the next, which has been marginally more in keeping with the Kremlin's ambitions.

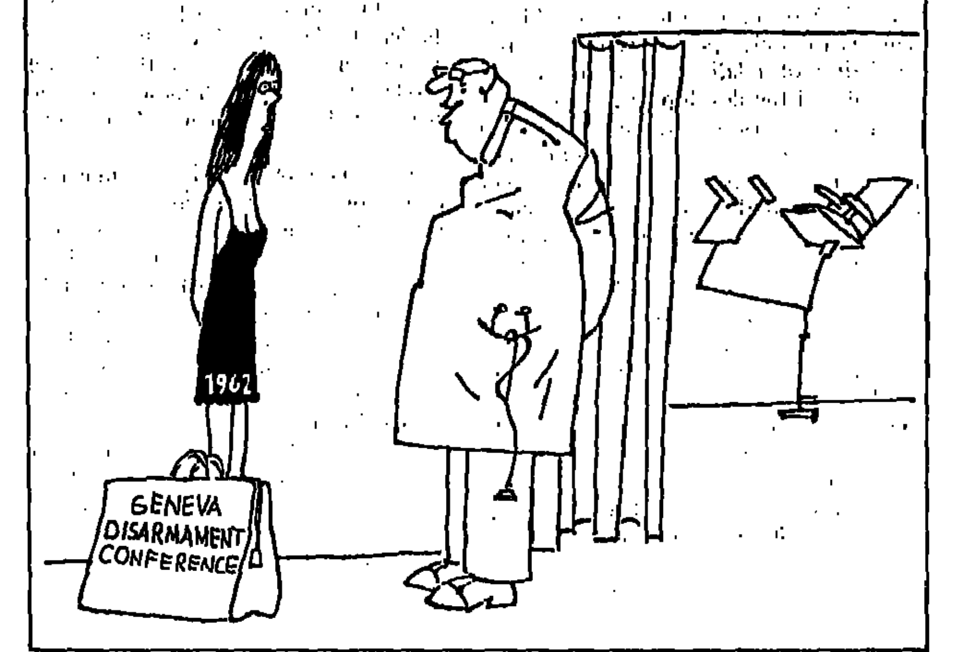
In the meantime, the Soviet Union has not been inactive. In the years since the MBFR talks began, Moscow has powerfully reinforced, both in men and firepower, its strength in Central Europe.

While the West aims at parity in the region, Moscow is making sure that East bloc superiority is increased. Parity can now only be achieved by even greater Soviet troop cuts than necessary when talks began.

Yet the Soviet Union insists on equal cuts by both sides, which would consolidate East bloc superiority.

Given this tactic by the Kremlin, impatience would be the worst mistake the West could make. A political decision is just what Moscow wants.

Arms and disarmament are a sector poorly suited for tokens of goodwill which do little more than weaken one's own position.



"Well, my dear, it seems you are in your 216th month."
(Cartoon: Wolter/Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt)

What is needed is the opposite: a breakthrough for specialised knowledge, for expertise. Specialists would nowadays be inclined to abandon the ideas evolved by the West years ago when the MBFR talks began.

A numerical reduction in armed forces on both sides has been rendered largely irrelevant by recent advances in weapons technology.

No-one will deny that the East enjoys military superiority in Europe. Even Moscow admits this, arguing that superiority in Europe is offset by worldwide US technological superiority in intercontinental ballistic missiles.

But this is an equation the West cannot afford to acknowledge. Its aim must be a state of affairs in Europe in which the East is no longer able to put its military strength to full use.

This means primarily that some counterweight to the overwhelming predominance of Soviet tanks in Europe must be found. Manpower is well-nigh irrelevant.

The neutron bomb could have been this counterweight to Soviet tanks but it is not, for the time being, to be manufactured.

Other options are on the horizon, especially non-nuclear armour-piercing shells with devastating accuracy provided by advanced technology.

The West could dispense with these weapons if the Soviet Union were only to withdraw some of its tanks from Central Europe. But Moscow is not even going through the motions.

So Nato may (possibly, that is, rather than probably) have to respond to the reinforcement of Soviet armed forces in Europe by improving equipment and firepower.

This would be, not for the first time, the very opposite of disarmament and arms limitation. But this is a sector in which unilateral advance concessions are not to be recommended.

Militarisation is gaining momentum in the East bloc. Compulsory military training at GDR schools is no more than the latest instance.

The East has yet to appreciate the wisdom of Livy, the Roman historian who wrote that "the certainty of peace is better and safer than the hope of victory."

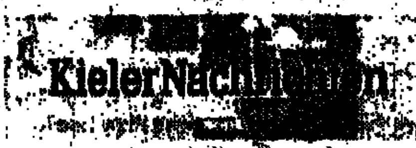
Wolfgang Wagner

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 5 August 1978)

IN THIS ISSUE

The next issue of The German Tribune will appear in two weeks with the date 3 September 1978.

Nato alarm on Warsaw Pact moves



Warsaw Pact forces are now expected to be battle-ready in four to six hours — half the previous time.

East bloc tanks are replaced by new models every five years now instead of every ten.

Motorised artillery and new low loaders enable the Kremlin and its allies to move men and heavy equipment forward in reduced time.

East bloc air forces have been re-equipped for an offensive role. All this obviously worries Nato. Disappointment that detente policies have failed to bring disarmament is accompanied by growing unrest.

Warsaw Pact manoeuvres have also recently suggested that East bloc forces are planning to attack rather than to defend.

Yet the United States has made a number of unilateral arms limitation concessions to which the Soviet Union has so far failed to respond.

America has, for instance, postponed development of the neutron bomb and shelved plans for a sophisticated new strategic bomber.

Washington has agreed to equip nuclear bombers with Cruise missiles (feared by the Kremlin for their accuracy) limited to a range of 2,250 kilometres (1,400 miles) to reduce the direct threat to Soviet territory.

The US has also agreed to include Cruise missiles among the multiple-warhead missiles limited by the next Salt treaty.

Nato not only feels that the Soviet Union has made no concessions in return — the Kremlin is also felt to be pressing ahead with a new missile out-

Continued on page 7

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MP looks at Lomé One

Uwe Holtz, Social Democratic MP and spokesman on development, points to the excessive power of Brussels and the danger of neo-colonialism contained in the present Lomé Convention.

The Lomé Convention between the European Economic Community and 53 African, Pacific and Caribbean states is the only specific example of the reordering of relations between the industrial and the developing nations.

The convention introduced practical measures to encourage cooperation between the so-called ACP nations and therefore strengthens their collective autonomy. It envisages special measures for the least developed countries and can be mobilised to ensure that the basic needs of the poorest sections of the population are met. With a few exceptions, the convention gives the signatories free access to the EEC markets which the developing countries do not have to reciprocate. It recognises that the play of free market forces on the raw materials market needs correction. Lomé also enters the extremely difficult area of industrial cooperation.

The great disadvantage of the agreement is that it does not benefit all the countries of the Third World.

So far it has been judged as on the whole positive, which is why it should now be taken further, while retaining its basic structure.

In the discussions on the renewing of the Lomé Convention, three main innovations have been discussed.

One is a human rights clause proposed by the EEC commission for inclusion in Lomé II. I welcome the intention of stating more clearly that the purpose of economic and social cooperation is to help people. Here civil liberties should be put on the same level as social and cultural human rights. The EEC is having difficulty deciding what would happen should these rights be violated. It is clear that where there are flagrant violations of human rights, cooperation should not be used to consolidate the apparatus of repression in the ACP country concerned.

The EEC seems to be prepared to break new ground in international law with this economic agreement. So far so good. But it will have to avoid one-sidedness: it must not demand freedom and protection only for private investments, as happened at the Bonn economic summit.

ACP representatives say that many companies from Europe frequently violate human rights in developing countries, mainly social human rights and rights connected with trade union membership.

This is why it is reasonable to expect that the agreement should contain rules of behaviour for countries from the European Economic Community.

A second innovation is the stabilisation of income from exports. The Stabex system is a kind of insurance against bad years in which developing countries' earnings from raw materials and products sold to the industrial countries fall. The system of stabilisation would apply to all signatories to the agreement and to all the main products, for example, copper and phosphates.

The system would be extended to increase income from exports, to give the economies of the ACP states greater growth impulses.

This presupposes that the EEC is willing to fulfil the declarations made at the Bonn economic summit and considerably increase finance for cooperation with developing countries. At the same time, Bonn should remove a barrier which it set up quite unnecesarily: the ruling that 30 per cent of development aid at the most should be used for multilateral purposes.

A third innovation concerns industrialisation and trade: the liberal trade rules in Lome I should not be eroded by protectionist measures in Lome II. The ACP countries have reservations about the EEC Commission's proposal to introduce further consultation mechanisms in certain sensitive areas (textiles, oil products) to reduce distortions of the market and prevent the use of protective clauses.

The object of the EEC commission, as the Bundestag committee on economic cooperation found out at a meeting in Brussels on 10 May, is to prevent several Hong Kongs from coming into being by means of an early warning system. The consultations envisaged would not only prevent undesirable imports but also advise the ACP states of potential gaps and market opportunities.

This consultation mechanism could prevent timely adaptation of the EEC's economic structures to the changing world situation and thus prevent necessary structural change. It could mean a form of investment guiding in which the stronger partner on the market can decide in the interests of the industrial nations when the market economy should be allowed to operate.

This kind of new order would speed up the industrialisation of parts of the Third World from outside – something diametrically against the concept of independent development.

The industrialisation of the ACP countries would to a considerable extent be controlled from Brussels. The Lomé Convention, which is not a paternalistic way of regulating international relations, would then run the risk of becoming a vehicle for neo-colonial domination.

The convention is the most important instrument of development policy in relations between rich and poor countries. Lome II could be drafted in such a way that it could be a further important step along the road to a new international economic order.

It this convention paves the way for labour-intensive, energy and raw material-saving, humane and environmentally acceptable policies, then it would be an even more important contribution to the development and not the underdevelopment of the Third World.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 7 August 1978)

ACP countries to take tough line on Lomé Two

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG

After an initial analysis of the starting position on a new Lomé Convention between the EEC and the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, the EEC Council of Ministers has agreed to start negotiations by mid-September at the latest.

The EEC Ministers want to hold a ministerial conference in December. By then the interim balance street on the state of negotiation will have to be ready, to form the basis of directives for the next round. This could be the decisive phase. In May 1979, parallel with the meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers there will be another conference of Ministers "in which conclusions from the negotiations will have to be drawn".

This timetable has been dictated by formal dates. The present Lomé Convention, signed in the capital of Togo, on 28 February 1975, runs for five years, expiring on 1 March 1980. This is laid down in article 91, even though the trade agreement only came into force on 1 August 1975 and the overall agreement with financial assistance on 1 April 1976 (retrospectively). Before this had to be ratifies in all mine EEC countries and in at least two-thirds of the ACP countries.

Article 91 also says that 18 months before the agreement expires the parties should meet to examine their future relations. The formal opening of talks on 24 July and the beginning of negotiations in mid-September means that these requirements have been met.

It is still not certain whether it will be possible to stick to this timetable. Both sides agree that the present Lomé agreement has proved its worth. The EEC holds that the new talks will not be about basic changes and innovations, but "changes and improvements in matters of detail."

Herr Genscher recently referred to "the period after Lome" and not to Lome II. This fine distinction could represent a move towards the ideas put forward by ACP spokesman, Jamaican Foreign Minister Patterson. He rejected mere cosmetic changes and improvements.

The timetable is not fixed. Negotiations on the first Lomé agreement lasted from July 1973 to February 1975 – 20 months. The dimensions involved were quite different. The association of the original six EEC members with 18 French-speaking countries was extended to include cooperation with 28 English-speaking developing countries, mainly from the Commonwealth.

The demands over development policy of Unctad and the Group 77 played a major part in these negotiations. A number of Caribbean politicians took a much tougher line than the French-speaking Africans had taken.

Unity was only established by negotiation. This time, as Patterson, president of the ACP Council of Ministers, proudly observed, the partners enter the talks with one voice.

There are plenty of problems awaiting the first round of negotiations at ambassadorial and expert level in September. The talks at ministerial level towards the end of the year (under this country's chairmanship) will inevitably lead to a confrontation between political and economic judgements. This is inevitable if there is to be fair give-and-take in the final phase.

Much will depend on how things have developed in Southern Africa by then and what part the EEC and her member states will have played.

This applies to the question of whether human rights should be included in the agreement, the relation between investment protection and investment guarantee clauses and the EEC's capacity and willingness to meet ACP demands for sales guarantees and "the adaptation of Europe's economic structure to the new international division of labour."

The amount of future financial aid and the extent of stabilisation of raw materials income will depend on these negotiations. The greater the distance between the "new world economic order" and the terms of the agreement, the higher the demands of the developing countries will be. That the Lomé agreement has been praised as a model for international cooperation is a source of pride, but it also arouses expectations. The ACP countries want to go further than pioneers in the developing countries' camp at Unctad 5 in 1979 and at the next extraordinary general meeting in 1980. This is why a new agreement with new contents is to receive a new name.

Carl A. Eberhardt

(Handelsblatt, 1 August 1978)

The world's richest

Gross national product for 1977 in dollars per inhabitant

Country	GNP per inhabitant ($)
Kuwait	11950
Switzerland	10010
Sweden	9480
Norway	8845
USA	8715
Denmark	8465
Canada	8375
Fed. Rep. of Germany	8370
Belgium	8185
Netherlands	7610
France	7145
Australia	6820
Austria	6360
Japan	6005
Libya	6000
Saudi Arabia	5730
GDR	4430
Britain	4365
Czechoslovakia	3840
Israel	3565
Italy	[illegible]
Spain	3180
Ireland	2925

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HOME AFFAIRS

Hans Filbinger – the fall of a man who would not admit he was wrong

Savonarola, Descartes, Walter Eucken and Reinhold Schneider are the great men who have most influenced Hans Filbinger, who recently resigned as Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg.

Savonarola was a 15th-century preacher of morals in Renaissance Italy, Descartes a 17th-century French philosopher for whom thought included the freedom to reach mistaken conclusions.

Eucken was a Freiburg free market economist and Schneider a Freiburg writer whose view of history was that of a court passing judgment.

Christian Democrat Hans Filbinger, 65 on 15 September, can certainly claim to have modelled himself on a wide range of historical figures for the ordinary middle-class son of a Mannheim banker.

There can be no mistaking Dr Filbinger's feeling for reality and *realpolitik*, but few are aware of his liberal views in the personal sphere – something probably due to his student days in Paris.

He is also deeply committed to Roman Catholic historicism, for although an educated man, as well-versed in Gogol as in, say, Rousseau, he is basically conservative in outlook, with a sense of order and values rooted in religion.

Yet at the same time he is a quick thinker with a thorough grounding in economics and a keen sense of what his public wants, an intuitive grasp of their expectations.

But this instinct deserted him a few weeks ago when it was learnt that, as a presiding judge at naval courts-martial in the final days of World War Two, he sentenced ratings to death at a stage when the war was lost.

He was finally left with little option but to resign the Land premiership because of the blustering manner in which he countered criticism of his wartime activities.

It took him eight weeks to demolish the image he had built up in the course of 26 years. Hans Filbinger, a man who never shunned political debate and frequently sought it, claiming that democratic socialists were the grave-diggers of democracy, failed to come to terms with his own past.

Like many others, he was active in the Roman Catholic youth movement, later joining the SA as a student. But few people in his age-group who wore the brown shirt of the SA would claim, as he does, to have been an opponent of the Third Reich.

Like many others, he was commissioned as a naval officer in 1940. This is how his potted biography in Munzinger's Archives describes the period:

"From 1940 until the end of the war he saw active service as a naval officer in minesweeping and small mobile units, especially in the North Atlantic and Arctic waters.

"In October 1944 his boat was torpedoed by the British and, in the final stage of the war, he was temporarily entrusted with work as a judge.

"By exploiting procedural possibilities he was able to avoid passing sentence on ratings charged with defeatism and sabotage. In two cases he prevented death sentences".

What no-one knew until recently was that he served as a naval judge from 1943 and was associated with at least 183 known sentences (and perhaps others that have yet to come to light) between then and his release from internment as a prisoner-of-war.

Dr Filbinger made no mention of this fact in his biography and, until a matter of weeks ago, had "forgotten" all about it, although he claimed to have ransacked his brain for memories of any such episode.

Filbinger, a practising Roman Catholic and young Freiburg lawyer, joined the Christian Democratic Union in 1951. One of the first photos of Filbinger the politician shows him near the head of a Corpus Christi procession.

He was quick to learn what people wanted to hear and in 1956 was elected to Freiburg city council by the highest margin ever polled by a Christian Democrat.

He served for a spell as a senior civil servant attached to Kurt Georg Kiesinger's Land Cabinet in Stuttgart before being elected to the Baden-Württemberg assembly in 1960 and promptly appointed Home Minister.

He was well-versed in the affairs of his portfolio and avocated wide-ranging state planning, investment in structural policies aimed at bridging the gap between town and country and consolidation of Baden-Württemberg.

He later had difficulty in making a name for himself as the successor to Kurt Georg Kiesinger, yet his political progress was altogether more straightforward than, say, his transport policies.

In 1966 he was elected CDU leader in South Baden, and on 16 December 1966, after Dr Kiesinger's departure for Bonn as Chancellor of the Grand Coalition, Hans Filbinger was appointed Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg.

In 1970 he became Baden-Württemberg CDU chairman, some achievement considering he had joined with the Social Democrats in South Württemberg to abolish denominational schools.

In 1970 the Baden-Württemberg CDU had 45,500 members. It now has more than 80,000. This, too, is a more substantial achievement than it might sound, given that the Filbinger Land government joined forces with the Social Democrats in 1971 to push through local government reforms entailing the abolition of 28 administrative districts.

Baden-Württemberg voters took a lenient view of the drastic university regulations enforced in towns upset by student demonstrations against emergency legislation in Bonn.

They were also happy to go along with the tough interpretation of the decree on political extremism in the public service advocated by the former presiding officer at German courts-martial in a PoW camp in post-war Norway.

Voters were prepared to accept the CDU decision to virtually ignore abortion law reform in Baden-Württemberg, and earlier this year Hans Filbinger won the CDU's most handsome Land election victory ever with the fighting but somewhat rabble-rousing slogan "Freedom Instead of Socialism."

This was the peak of his political career. Dr Filbinger toured the United States, France, Egypt and China. There seemed to be nothing he could not afford to do.

In 1970 he had advocated a reallocation of responsibilities that would have been tantamount to emasculating the Land administrations, yet he suddenly changed his tune and called for the abolition of joint project-financing by the federal and Land governments.

Parents and teachers accepted his decision to freeze the number of public service employees until 1980, despite school classes being full to overflowing and lessons being scrapped because of lack of staff.

Country folk, having been stripped of their town and village halls and schools, still gave Dr Filbinger a hearty ovation when he announced that churches at least were not to be centralised.

Admirers of his opposition to the Basic Treaty with the GDR and the treaty with Poland later felt how right they (and he) had been when the treaties were amended to ensure passage through the Bundesrat (or upper house) in Bonn.

At 61 he climbed 4,000-metre peaks, went hiking with members of the public and enlisted the services of Heino, a pop singer, for his election campaign.

He issued decorations and dubbed the 12th-century Hohenstaufen Holy Roman Emperors – Barbarossa's dynasty – Baden-Württembergers (somewhat prematurely, since Baden-Württemberg did not come into existence until the early 50s).

He was the unquestioned leader of Baden-Württemberg, backed by local people and even political opponents. He accomplished and forestalled much, both in Stuttgart and in Bonn.

He never had any ambition to become head of state, which surprised his supporters at the time. Perhaps this is less astonishing now we know details of his wartime career.

Yet in the nearly 12 years Hans Filbinger was Prime Minister in Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg became the most heavily-industrialised, economically powerful region in the country.

It had more foreign workers and fewer jobless than any other Land, and Baden-Württemberg made a name both in Europe and overseas.

As Prime Minister, Dr Filbinger achieved great things, but never the greatest, which would have been to acknowledge his shortcomings and draw the right conclusions at the right time.

Erich Ruckgaber

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 August 1978)

Can the CDU afford Herr Filbinger?

Are the words of an author and playwright enough to bring about the downfall of a Prime Minister? Appearances are deceptive.

True, Hans Filbinger has resigned as Baden-Württemberg premier. True, playwright Rolf Hochhuth started the ball rolling by calling Dr Filbinger a Nazi judge, whereupon the Stuttgart premier sued him for libel.

But Hans Filbinger has no-one but himself to blame for the political avalanche that led to his resignation.

He sees himself as the victim of a slander campaign. Bavarian leader Franz Josef Strauss testifies to a similar view when he talks of a "campaign waged for months by the united forces of the Left."

But neither has realised (or both have preferred not to realise) that this is not the way it was. Herr Strauss is even on the verge of capitalising on Dr Filbinger's self-created tragedy.

In referring to a "systematic and merciless campaign of left-wing slander" the Bavarian leader is limbering up for local elections in his home state.

A number of commentaries have referred to political dirty work because the opponents of an outstanding Christian Democrat leader were taking unfair advantage of his past.

Nothing that Social Democrats have said can justify such allegations. The SPD cannot be expected to rally to Dr Filbinger's defence either, of course.

Baden-Württemberg SPD leader Erhard Eppler called on the premier to resign, but not for reasons in any way suspect. His arguments were based on Dr Filbinger's reaction to the disclosures. The Free Democrats were noncommittal.

In the end it was the premier's own party, the Christian Democrats, who forced him to resign. The CDU was acting strictly in accordance with its own interests and not as the tool of anyone else.

Herr Strauss may lament what he calls lack of solidarity within the CDU, but he seems to have forgotten the many messages of support Dr Filbinger received.

This wellspring of support did not run dry until four days before the resignation, when Dr Filbinger himself published details of a further death sentence passed at a court-martial on which he had sat in wartime Norway.

Dr Filbinger felt this particular sentence exonerated him because it was never carried out. But leading Christian Democrats had already made it clear that their patience would end if one more death sentence came to light.

What is more, his resignation statement made it clear that he still failed to realise that he had been guilty of more than a tactical mistake.

He still felt others were to blame, arguing that a free country with a constitutional government in which the honour of the individual could be trampled under foot would bring about its own downfall.

This is the very attitude that led Hans Filbinger to behave in the manner of a grand-duke who just happened to head a republican government, but otherwise decided what was law himself and was loved by his people as a benevolent despot.

Psychologists may claim that this is the key to understanding how matters could come to this pass. Hans Filbinger ws a successful man who chose to forget his past guilt and came to see himself as so high and mighty that normal standards no longer applied when his guilty past caught up with him.

He still fails to realise that others cannot understand how anyone can possibly forget death sentences he has either passed or advocated as a prosecutor.

He calls for "effective protection of (his) honour" and calls on critics to succeed where he has failed and "take into

Continued on page 5

POPE PAUL VI

'The Pope who held his hand over me' – by theologian Hans Küng

Theologian Hans Küng of the University of Tübingen, author of the controversial works *To be a Christian* and *Does God Exist?* and a critic of Pope Paul VI on questions of papal infallibility, speaks to *Die Zeit* of the Pope he knew.

If we compare him with Pius XII and John XXIII, it is difficult to describe Paul VI as a great Pope. Nor is it possible to describe him as only a minor one. It is typical of Paul VI's personality that it appeared in an ambivalent light.

He did not want, like Pius XII, to lead the Church in the old authoritarian style, nor in the new pastoral and ecumenical style of John XXIII. He attempted to achieve a synthesis between the styles of his two great predecessors.

The ambivalence lies in the contrast between his great intentions and relatively meagre results, the great gestures and the often minimal achievements.

There were great gestures towards the Third World, where his ambitions to a certain extent resembled those of General de Gaulle, whose journeys, like those of Paul VI, were of stylistic significance rather than leading to real results.

He also made these great gestures in relation to ecumenical approaches to the churches and reforms within the Church and also in relation to the modernisation of the Catholic Church.

Even his opponents will have to concede that Pope Paul clearly only wanted the good. At a time in which politicians here and in other countries often have difficulty proving their moral integrity, this is a quality worthy of respect. Here a man whose moral integrity and pastoral commitment were beyond all doubt was in a position of the highest responsibility for 15 years.

Paul VI was remarkable for an almost excessive sense of responsibility and he undoubtedly wish to continue along the same lines as John XXIII and complete the task of the Council.

He made admirable attempts to communicate with the other Christian churches and to help give the Roman Catholic Church a new view of modern society. But precisely in these two respects he encountered difficulties within the Roman system which he could only partially overcome.

In fairness to him, it will have to be said that Paul VI's family background, his seminary education, his career, most of which were spent in the Roman Curia, and, above all, the very traditional theology which he learnt all prevented him from making the decisions which would have put his intentions into practice.

Finally, he remained a prisoner of the Curial apparatus and Curial theology; on issues where he was not tied by Curial theology, such as social questions, questions of development policy and of an opening up towards the East, Paul VI did not hesitate to make courageous pronouncements.

Wherever he was tied to the "infallible" teachings of the Church, he found it impossible to introduce reforms. This was nowhere clearer than in the question of birth control where, as I know from a personal conversation with him, he certainly had every intention of presenting an understanding solution of this problem for the people of today. But as soon as he realised that if he approved certain methods of contraception he would be going against the dogma of his predecessors and the earlier episcopacy, he retreated.



Pope Paul VI: an attempt at a synthesis of the styles of his two predecessors (Photo: KNA)

Here he should have looked again at the question of the infallibility of the Church, but his curial education and basic attitude made this simply impossible. His advisers could not suggest any solution, any way of not coming into conflict with the question of infallibility. And he himself could find no way of stating, on the one hand, that contraceptives were immoral and, on the other, that they could be allowed.

It would be unfair to accuse him of lack of understanding for people in this context. He often said that on the basis of his beliefs he could not decide other than he did. He suffered greatly in this situation. Such were his limits.

The same applies to his attitude to ecumenical matters. He certainly wanted reconciliation, with the Eastern churches in particular. His visits to Jerusalem and Constantinople were not in vain and he received the ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras in Rome. But he could not find a theological solution in terms of the First Vatican Council's definition of the

He did not see a solution for the problem of recognising Protestant institutions and bodies on the basis of the present constitution of the Catholic Church. This was the reason why no progress was made on the question of a common communion service for the Catholic and Protestant churches. Again and again, the narrowness of dogma pre-primacy of papal jurisdiction and infallibility, and so he was unable to bring about a real reconciliation with the oriental churches.

vented the late Pope from reaching pastoral solutions.

This applies with equal force to social questions. On the one hand, he believed that women should occupy higher positions in society and said so on various occasions. But when it came to taking a step in this direction in an important test case, that of the ordination of women, he rejected this out of hand.

He fought for an improvement of conditions in Latin America, but on the matter of birth control, where the power and dignity of his word could have had tremendous influence on stopping the population explosion, he was unable to provide a solution.

His strange battle on two fronts against the traditionalism of Lefebvre and progressive solutions in Holland was equally contradictory, particularly in the questions of the new Dutch catechism for adults and the vexatious question of the celibacy of priests, which led tens of thousands of Catholic priests throughout the world to give up the priesthood.

Personally, I was glad that Pope Paul did not excommunicate Lefebvre and the traditionalists. Thus this issue remained open and the way towards a future reconciliation still exists. I would have approved if the Pope had allowed those who wanted to do so to celebrate the mass in Latin. But here too he was tied by Roman legalism which, paradoxically in this case, commanded progress. After the new rule had been laid down, it should have been observed unconditionally. If he had said this he would have saved himself innumberable difficulties.

One thing I would like to say: I am grateful to Pope Paul for the protection he gave me throughout the years. I met him when he was a cardinal and also spoke to him later. No-one could have prevented him from taking a tough line and imposing *punishments* in the vehement debate on infallibility. Even excommunication would have been possible.

I know that in my case and others his guideline was to act *con carita*, that is not with legal and disciplinary means, but to attempt to find a solution and at all events to avoid an open break.

There were and still are people in the Curia who did not understand this approach and would have preferred, indeed still do prefer, tougher measures. I am perfectly aware that if the Pope had only nodded approval these forces would have got their way.

(Die Zeit, 11 August 1978)

Bavaria CSU looks at the church

The Bavarian Christian Social Union's commission to clarify its relation to the church has summarised the results of its work in a four-page statement of principles.

According to the paper, the reforming activity of the SPD-FDP coalition gave the impulse for the party to re-think its position. This activity led to the "increased influence of ideological elements" and was no longer based on "the basic values of our constitution." Many Christians had also become unsure of themselves "in their uncritical conformity to the modern world."

The CSU paper leaves little room for doubt as to what is the threat to its philosophy: "There has been a dangerous politicisation of the church, in which the Christian message and socialist policies have become mingled." As in the last general election campaign in which the CDU-CSU used the slogan "Freedom or Socialism," it is now essential for the church to make abundantly clear "the incompatibility between the Christian view of man and all forms of collectivism."

This is not meant as a plea for "apolitical Christianity," because a Christian party must be concerned with bringing "religious motives into political activity", provided these motives conform to the "Christian view of man."

It is clear from the document that the CSU has discovered the churches as a new field of action and the churches must realise from the document's recommendations that there are powerful forces in the CSU ancious to put them on the right course.

The party does concede — in contrast to Biedenkopf's theses — that "it should not set itself up as the interpreter of Christian life and belief," but nor could the churches claim a political mandate, even if within their rights in stating critical attitudes on party political decisions.

Should one congratulate the churches on having such zealous fighters on their behalf? Perhaps the motto at the top of the CSU paper describing every great political question as also a religious question is a sign of what they have to expect. This is a quotation from the Spaniard Donoso Cortes who, in the middle of the 19th century, moved away from a liberal position and argued that the fugure would depend on the outcome of the struggle between Catholicism and socialism.

He argued for an "authoritarian form of state willed by God" which "would have a hierarchic structure similar to that of the Catholic Church.

Eberhard Stammler

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 30 July 1978)

THE LAW

Human Rights Court gives judgment on two issues

Citizens of West Germany have in two cases complained to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg that the Federal Republic has violated their rights and the court has found the country guilty in one case and innocent in the other.

For the first time the Federal Republic has been found guilty of violating human rights by this court.

Ear, nose and throat specialist Dr Eberhard König had complained to the court about the excessive duration of an administrative court case in which he was involved. In 1967 the Wiesbaden authorities refused him permission to run his private clinic and in 1971 they refused to allow him to practise as a doctor.

The Frankfurt administrative court took until June 1976 to reject König's complaint about withdrawal of permission to practise. König appealed. In May 1978 the Hesse Supreme Administrative Court rejected this appeal. The hearing on whether König should be allowed to run the clinic is still not over after 11 years.

Unlike the Federal Constitutional Court, the Strasbourg judges decided in their binding ruling that "a reasonable length of procedure" had been exceeded. Administrative courts were also subject to article six of the European Human Rights Convention which said justice should be administered within a reasonable space of time. The court will rule on compensation later.

Since then Europe's human rights judges have ruled on another matter which caused a greater sensation in this country. A fortnight ago the European Human Rights Commission held that the accusation that the authorities had subjected the "hard core" of the Baader-Meinhof prisoners to "isolation torture" was "evidently unfounded."

Two members of the commission visited the prison cells in which Gudrun Ensslin, Andreas Baader and Jan-Carl Raspe lived until their deaths on 18 November 1978. Their conclusion was that there was no question of isolation.

The Human Rights Commission said they were also "convinced that there were good reasons for subjecting the plaintiffs to increased security measures." The prisoners' argument that they had not had a fair trial because public opinion had been mobilised against them was unfounded.

Finally, the commission said that on the basis of expert medical opinions there were no grounds for believing that the prisoners had died as a result of their imprisonment.

Bonn Minister of Justice Hans Jochen Vogel welcomed the court's ruling as "an important contribution to clearing up Germany's image abroad."

What are the European Human Rights Commission and the European Court of Human Rights? They have nothing to do with the European Economic Community Court in Luxembourg. On 3 September 1953 the European Human Rights Convention came into force, since ratified by all 19 members of the European Council except Portugal.

To ensure that the basic freedoms described in the convention were upheld, the European Human Rights Court was set up. The Human Rights Commission is a subordinate body which decides whether a complaint is valid and strives for " an amicable agreement between the parties."

If agreement cannot be reached, the Human Rights Court, with a chamber of seven judges, then reaches a majority decision . The court can rule that the victim of a violation of the convention should receive "appropriate compensation," and this is binding for signatory states.

The Committee of Ministers of the European Council ensures that the court's rulings are respected. States and individuals can complain to the court about alleged violations of human rights. Up to 1977, eleven complaints had been brought by member states against one another and 7,800 complaints laid by individuals or groups against states. Only 146 of these complaints were declared admissible.

In the past the Human Rights Court has looked into birching on the Isle of Man, military discipline in the Netherlands, Belgian regulations on the language of tuition in schools, obligatory sex education in Danish primary schools and the long periods of remand in German and Austrian prisons.

The human rights judges have dealt with the Cyprus conflict and the political situation in Greece after 1968 while the colonels were in power, the problems of Ugandan Asians in Britain and various events connected with Northern Island. The court has so far found on seven occasions that violations of human rights have occurred.

From the German point of view, the case of Ingrid Brückmann is of particular interest. After she fled from the GDR this girl, then 17, confessed that she had killed her father after he had sexually assaulted her. A West Berlin court ruled that she should be extradited to the GDR.

She took her case to the Human Rights Court. In 1975 she was tried in West Berlin and sentenced to two-and-a-half years. As she had already spent two-and-a-half years on remand, she was released. She then withdrew her complaint to the Human Rights Court.

The European Human Rights Commission has 18 members, one from each state in the European Council which has ratified the convention. The Committee of Ministers nominates the judges from lists provided by the national delegations in the parliamentary assembly. The German representative is Professor Frohwein of Bielefeld.

The European Human Rights Court has 20 members. The eighteen judges from the countries which have ratified the convention are joined by a judge from Portugal and, more recently, one from Spain. They are nominated on recommendations from governments and the Committee of Ministers of the European Council and have a nine-year term of office. Hermann Mosler of the Federal Republic is vicepresident of the court.

Herr Mosler, director of the Max Planck Institute of Foreign Law and International Law in Heidelberg, is also a member of the International Court in the Hague.

In his opinion, the importance of the European Human Rights Court has "increased considerably in recent years" because the court has been constantly concerned with legislation in many areas. The court has an important part to play in terms of European unity in harmonising basic rights in Western Europe.

"The court's rulings only apply in the individual case but the countries involved usually change their legislation accordingly afterwards," says Herr Mosler.

According to him, the European Court cannot be expected to rule on social rights, for example, the right to work. The Human Rights Convention would first have to be amended.

The Strasbourg judges have had no shortage of controversial cases. Apart from the English thalidomide issue, it is now dealing with two interesting German complaints. One is about the admissibility of court interpreters' costs for foreign workers. The other case is concerned with the German law on bugging. A ruling is expected on this early next spring.

Ludger Kühnhardt

(Deutsche Zeitung, 28 July 1978)

Constitutional Court rejects appeal on contact ban

The Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe has rejected a complaint about the contact ban law which imposes restrictions on contacts between imprisoned convicted or alleged terrorists or with the outside world.

The ruling means that this ban is compatible with the constitution, the Basic Law.

The constitutional complaint had been brought by three prisoners: Klaus Jünschke, Sabine Schmitz and Siegfried Haag, and by their lawyers.

In its verdict, the court refers to the need for certain "precise definitions" of the law which stipulate the circumstances in which a ban can be imposed. These definitions are intended to prevent abuses of the law.

The verdict of the Federal Constitutional Court says the contact ban is based on the legislative principle that in certain circumstances the state must give the protection of life and the freedom of individuals greater priority then the basic rights of prisoners.

It would be a distortion of the meaning of the Basic Law if the state were forbidden to use legal means to prevent terrorist efforts to destroy the free democratic order, efforts which included the deliberate killing of others as a means to achieve their end.

The contact ban Act is, in the opinion of the Karlsruhe judges, the appropriate and necessary means to limit the basic rights of prisoners, "who, according to the information available, could have a dangerous influence on events outside the prison."

As long as there was a danger that people believed to belong to organised terrorism were pursuing anticonstitutional aims from within the prisons and attempting to influence the fate of endangered persons, "the constitution, in the interests of the preservation of the state and the fulfilment of the state's obligation to protect the life, health and liberty of its citizens, tolerates the use of the contact ban law."

The purpose of the clearer definitions "in the interest of the protection of the basic rights of prisoners" was to ensure that a contact ban is not imposed if there is no real danger of the prisoner influencing events outside the prison.

The danger which the contact ban is designed to meet would also have to justify the breaking off all contacts between the prisoners and between the prisoners and the outside world, the judges said. Finally, the contact ban should only be impose where the same end could not be achieved by less drastic measures.

The court says unequivocally that the contact ban, despite its short-term restriction of rights, meets the conditions laid down by the Federal Constitutional Court for fair legal procedures.

Hans Holfeld

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 August 1978)

Can CDU afford Filbinger?

Continued from page 3

account the situation in those days, the external compulsion and internal confusion and implication in guilt."

The Filbinger affair could have been an instance of at least trying to show the younger generation what happened during the war and how it came about.

But Hans Filbinger has prevented this with his narrow-mindedness and self-righteousness, and that, in the final analysis, is why he had to go.

Yet the conflict remains; it has merely been papered over. He is, for instance, to retain leadership of the Baden-Württemberg CDU.

This may well have been no more than a compromise to make it easier for him to resign and possible lend greater credibility to his resignation statement.

But it is an ill-advised compromise, since no-one will seriously believe that the contradictions inherent in this party-political manoeuvre will vanish of their own accord.

It is surely wrong to reckon that Hans Filbinger is still a vote-winner among people who feel he has been victimised. They are hardly likely to vote for the party that chased him out of office.

Dr Filbinger is not alone in fabricating a legend of this kind. One can more or less understand his motives. He evidently is unaware that he cuts a sorry figure as the standard-bearer of freedom.

But others would do well to note that they are doing neither themselves nor their party nor their country the slightest good by attributing Filbinger's downfall to all manner of dark forces — to anyone, in fact, but Filbinger himself.

It may come hard to some. Hans Filbinger was more than a mere party official, especially in his home state. But the CDU has no need to behave as though it has no leaders left who can pursue conservative policies without the risk of having skeletons found in their cupboards. This is simply not the case.

Hans Reiser

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 August 1978)

■ ECONOMY

Bonn helps starters, research

Bremer Nachrichten

Boans to business beginners and subsidies for small companies' research and development are two ways in which Bonn plans to reflate the economy as promised at the July economic summit.

Long-term loans at low interest rates for new businesses are under serious consideration. The Cabinet has ordered a report from the Economic Affairs and Finance ministries.

Starting next year, small and medium-sized companies will qualify for research and development payroll subsidies. DM300m has been earmarked.

The problem with business beginners is how best to help. Bonn feels the best way would be to help them to raise the initial capital, but other ideas are also to be considered.

People trying to set up in business have often failed because they lacked the initial capital, without which they did not qualify for ERP loans (from post-war Marshall Aid funds).

But various options are under review:
– Loan guarantees by the federal government.
– Capital loans at preferential interest rates for an initial period.
– Capital loans appropriate to the cash invested by the individual businessman, bearing in mind the total cost of the project.

Special depreciation allowances as a tax concession to help businesses survive the tough initial period are also being considered, according to the Economic Affairs Ministry.

The programmes to help business beginners are also to be coordinated by one government department using uniform procedures.

Research and development payroll subsidies for small and medium-sized companies will be available from next year, prompt action being needed because wage bills account for up to two-thirds of budgets.

Officials are still working on details, but greater use will definitely be made of industrial organisations such as the 80-member Confederation of Industrial Research Organisations.

It also remains to be seen where the line between large and medium-sized companies will be drawn. Companies may no longer be eligible for subsidies when turnover exceeds a certain level.

One of the aims of the payroll subsidy is to encourage industry to extend research capacity.

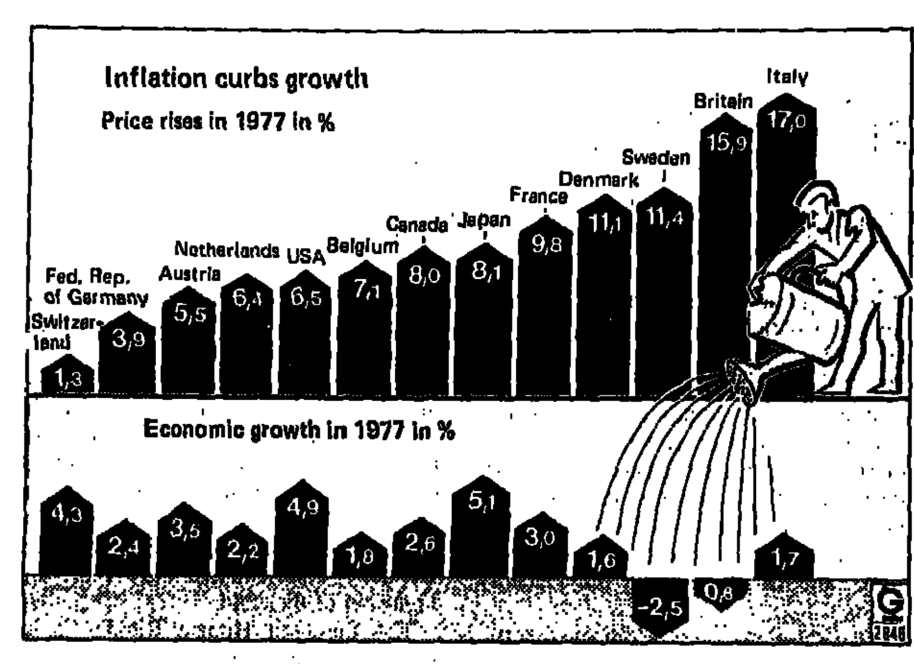
DM370m in ERP funds will be set aside for environmental conservation and innovation promotion from next year.

Investment loans towards environmental or innovatory programmes will be made firstly to small and medium-sized companies and to companies in West Berlin.

As an additional boost, Bonn has decided to supplement ERP funds via the federal budget.

Gerhard Weck

(Bremer Nachrichten, 5 August 1978)



Comecon puts its money on capitalism



Benin had no scruples about using capitalism to help boost Soviet industrial development, and his successors have been no less ready in the 70s.

Comecon capital investment in the West totals roughtly $1,000m, according to figures recently published in Warsaw.

Of 312 companies listed, 223 are in trade and most of the rest service capital and industrial goods exported to the West or are freight and forwarding agencies.

The Soviet Union heads the list with 84 companies registered in the West, followed by Poland with 65 and Hungary with 58. The GDR is an also-ran with 15 ventures in the West.

Most (54) are registered in the Federal Republic of Germany, followed by Britain (48) and France (42). Sixteen East bloc companies are registered in the United States and eight in Switzerland.

Early this year Hungary and Yugoslavia went on the offensive. Hungary set up a holding company in Luxembourg to raise loans from Western banks and buy stakes in small and medium-sized companies in the West, even setting up new factories.

"Globinvest, the Luxembourg company, is a subsidiary of Interag, which for years has dealt in licence agreements and represented foreign companies in Hungary.

Interag's Laszlo Gerö says Globinvest is intended to step up Hungary's influence on Western management, with the emphasis on precision engineering, electronics and telecommunications engineering.

Last year Interag bought Jorsens, the Danish radio and TV manufacturers, on behalf of Tungsram, a Hungarian company.

The aim of the campaign is to find additional markets for Hungarian exports and negotiate better terms for technology transfer from West to East.

Gerö also expects a Hungarian stake in Western companies to lead to more orders for Hungarian finished goods, parts and components.

So Hungary is on the lookout for companies with modern manufacturing techniques and advanced technology.

A management consultancy is to be set up, probably in Vienna, to supervise and control existing investments, sound out new investment opportunities and service companies in which Globinvest has a stake.

Part of the cash raised in the West is to be invested in joint ventures between Hungarian and Western companies.

Yugoslavia has substantially improved its investment legislation and Gorenje, a Yugoslav company, recently bought Körting, a bankrupt Bavarian radio and TV manufacturer.

Gorenje also owns companies in Denmark, Austria and Greece.

Peter Brinkmann

(Die Welt, 31 July 1978)

Koblenz works out the price of red tape observance

The Koblenz chamber of commerce and industry has coined the term "red tape expenditure" as a ledger entry for the cost of filling in forms, complying with legal regulations and generally keeping officialdom happy.

In Koblenz red tape costs companies an average DM53,000 a year, a survey of 260 companies shows.

The city is typical of West Germany as a whole in its industrial and commercial structure, and companies say red tape costs them the equivalent of three per cent of turnover.

The percentage varies, of course. Small firms spend up to 4.35 per cent of turnover on keeping officialdom happy, large companies only 0.25 per cent.

In cash the figures sound much more alarming. Firms employing less than ten spend DM18,000 a year on red tape. Companies with between 200 and 500 employees spend DM162,000 a year. Large corporations with more than 1,000 staff spend nearly DM500,000 a year.

The chamber feels these figures are not only alarming but also one of the main reasons why small companies (as opposed to tradesmen and large corporations) are no longer as dynamic as they used to be.

They are published in a survey entitled What Makes Businessmen Feel Unsure of Themselves: Psychogram of Investment Reluctance.

Businessmen, the survey claims, feel unsure for a variety of reasons. For instance, 50 per cent feel the government is no longer as firmly committed to the free-market economy as it used to be.

Only one businessman in eight feels the government is now a stauncher steward of the free-market economy.

Trade unions are reckoned to be the main adversaries of the free-market eco-

DIE WELT

nomy, followed by academics, teachers and students.

The government and political parties are next in order of importance as opponents of laissez faire economics as the business community sees it.

The public as a whole are felt to be favourably disposed towards the free market, as are workers, consumers and the church.

The chamber says businessmen themselves are partly to blame, frequently advocating meddling in the market and talking in terms of crisis cartels, protectionist tariff barriers and subsidies designed to maintain outmoded economic structures.

It says, however, that businessmen are conscious of their mistakes. More than half of those questioned said the free-market economy was damaged by members of the business community who were not always prepared to abide by market principles.

Yet despite uncertainty and reluctance to invest, innovation still plays a large part in the operations of small companies.

Roughly 40 per cent of companies in the Koblenz area claim to have stepped up their commitment to new products in recent years. Nearly one in four plans to market new lines in the foreseeable future.

They feel obliged to do so, either because business is slack or because foreign competition is proving effective and rationalisation necessary.

The chamber says there is ample room for innovation and technology transfer in its area and adds a number of recommendations.

"Institutions that share risks by means of financial investment," the survey suggests, "might well extend their activities to patents and licences, industrial cooperation and the development of new products and technology."

Hanna Gieskes

(Die Welt, 7 August 1978)

■ MANAGEMENT

A boss leads way to brave new world for workers

Frankfurter Rundschau

Nuremberg photographic dealer Hannsheinz Porst, 55, whose Photo-Porst group' annual turnover is nearly DM500m, is a boss with a difference.

He wears corduroy jeans and an open-necked sports shirt and his office is a far cry from the ankle-deep luxury of the usual executive suite — just an ordinary desk in one corner of an open-plan office. Porst has neither a secretary of his own nor an office to handle callers.

His desk is accessible to all, and when they move into the new block across the road, management will be even more part of the whole company.

Others may feel this rejection of comfort and prestige is mere affectation. Porst sees it as a symbolic expression of a management concept rare in the Federal Republic of Germany.

For the past six years he and his 1,600 workers have been partners in the company. Everyone owns a stake in the firm, has a say in decision-making and shares profits.

Porst worked out the details of his co-ownership scheme while serving a prison sentence for treasonable contacts with the GDR.

In 1972 he stopped being managing director and owner of the family firm, continuing as a member of staff like everyone else.

He did not make a present of the firm to his staff, as was frequently claimed at the time. He retained his capital and it still earns him good money. But he gained the reputation of a comic or even a dangerous social romantic.

He has remained an outsider, not only in his own line of business but also in West German industry as a whole, in his bid to manage successfully a socialised company in a capitalist environment.

Yet even sceptics are bound to admit that his co-ownership scheme has not prevented the company from making money. Since 1972 turnover has increased from DM150m to nearly DM 500m.

Last year the group netted DM7m in profits, which meant that staff got an average share bonus of DM5,000 over their salaries.

This cash is capital which remains invested in the company for a specified period. Staff shareholdings are now larger than Porst's own.

There is no proof of a direct link between Port's management concept and the commercial success of his company. Some say the firm could have achieved even better results had it not been for co-ownership.

Porst remains convinced that the results are due to this principle and not accomplished despite it.

He feels he has demonstrated that "economic and political work can be undertaken in this way even in our society."

When he transferred the company to staff ownership in 1972, he did so less with profits than with "humanity" (a favourite word) in mind.

Profits were not to be an end in themselves but a means, the end being to enable the staff to work willingly, identifying themselves with the firm.

Dispensing with his role as entrepreneur and sharing out capital among the staff were merely the basis for the next, and in Porst's opinion more important, step: total co- and eventual self-determination.

Porst is not unduly interested in whether these ideas are Marxist, as has frequently been alleged. Does he feel himself to be Marxist? The question clearly bores him.

What he is doing, he says, more or less coincidentally turns out to be roughly what Marx had in mind.

He knows his Marx, mind you, and is convinced that existence determines consciousness and not vice-versa. This is why he feels a scheme such as his can only be implemented gradually: as people come to realise the benefit they will derive.

He does not share the widespread opinion that many working people are chary of co-determination and taking full managerial responsibility.

Experience over the past six years has convinced him that all people need is the information to learn how to cope.

Once they have done so, egoism and disinterest disappear of their own accord.

The experiment, following a number of crises and amendments to the model, has now reached a stage of shopfloor management participation that no Western trade union would dare to demand.

In the advisoriy council, which corresponds to the upper tier of the European two-tier board system, staff representatives account for five of the nine board members.

Porst himself is only entitled to two votes. Appointments are dealt with by special commissions on which the personnel department, the works council, the management and the department in question are represented.

Superiors can be voted out of office by their unit every two years. Four times in the past six years staff units at Porst have used this revolutionary opportunity.

Porst is convinced there have been other cases in which elections have proved unnecessary because the individuals have anticipated the outcome and left of their own accord.

Staff were also consulted, via the appropriate industrial trade union, in the formulation of job evaluation according to 12 criteria.

The outcome was that wage differentials were no longer as drastic as before. No-one earned less, but eventually the highest-paid staff member was earning only four times as much as the lowest-paid, as against a previous ratio of eight to one.

Worker participation has substantially changed the staff outlook, Porst claims. There is increasing willingness to give and take criticism.

Staff are also readier to take above-average workloads. Works council chairman Wagner agrees. Election turnout is extremely high and works assemblies are well attended, even though held outside working hours.

Unlike works assemblies at most other firms, they are often the scene of frank discussions in which committed viewpoints are voiced.

"Staff no longer think in terms of subordination," the works council chairman says. They are more open and readier than workers elsewhere to commit themselves.

What he misses is an even greater emphasis on the idea of the staff being both management and workers, the concept that the company belongs to all members of staff.

Maybe this will be reached when Hannsheinz Porst moves on to the next stage in his plan: the transition from co-ownership to self-determination at work.

This objective was the cause of a crisis early this year when two senior managers objected to a "total opening in the direction of the shopfloor."

Porst, who has come to regard clashes of this kind as almost normal whenever he moves to the left, pushed through his ideas in an authoritarian way to ensure progress towards his anti-authoritarian concept.

The two executives who objected left the firm.

The way is now open for four trial groups to experiment with the latest venture in Porst's radical democracy.

They have been given no instructions on how to proceed towards self-determination and shopfloor democracy. "The means is the end," says the works council chairman, who is all in favour on the innovation.

In other words, the four groups are to find out for themselves whether dispensing with superiors altogether is best and how best to organise their daily routine.

The experiment will last two years or so. An academic survey will follow its progress, probably financed from public funds, to see how the results could be applied the company as a whole (or, indeed, to others).

In conversation with Porst it is soon apparent that he still regards the experiment as his life's work, although nominally he is now only one of several heads of department and spokesman for the management.

Last year he announced his intention of relinquishing these posts too in 1978, but because of trouble at management level he decided to stay.

He now plans to retire next year or the year after, but it is hard to imagine him without a say in the shape of his shopfloor self-determination scheme.

Rudolf Grosskopff

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 14 August 1978)

Nato alarm

Continued from page 1

side the Salt terms of reference. Development of the SS 20 rocket, represents after ten years of disarmament, has now reversed the trend under a Labour government.

Advance supplies have been laid on for ten US divisions, to be airlifted to Europe within a fortnight should the need arise.

A US brigade has been posted to north Germany — the soft underbelly of Central Europe — and a Dutch brigade is shortly to head east into Germany.

Moscow has also noted that Britain, a further threat to the security of Western Europe.

The SS 20 is reportedly capable of hitting any target in Western Europe. So might the Salt talks not simply be tempting the two sides to circumvent their terms of reference and accelerate the arms race?

A further question arises from the evident increase in defence preparedness on the West's part.

The United States is showing greater determination to protect Western Europe than for many years, and Russia is well aware of this.

Nato officials are wondering whether this increase in defence preparedness by the West is one reason why the East bloc is stepping up preparations for an offensive.

At Nato headquarters the Soviet strategy is felt to be twofold: — maintenance of Warsaw Pact numerical superiority and simultaneous priority for developing Soviet arms technology to eliminate Nato's receding advantage in sophisticated weapons.

Is it still right to say that the Soviet Union is a global military power, but not a world power because it lacks the ability to meet the demands of domestic consumers, satellites and developing countries?

If this is no longer the case, an even graver threat from the East is an even stronger likelihood say Nato officials in Brussels.

Hermann Bohle

(Kieler Nachrichten, 1 August 1978)

■ ENERGY

Jet finally takes off on way to nuclear fusion

Jet, the EEC's ambitious nuclear fusion project, was officially launched on 1 August at Culham, near Oxford, on what may prove to have been a historic occasion.

Jet, short for Joint European Torus, is a DM500m research venture to harness nuclear fusion as a virtually inexhaustible source of power generated at less risk to the environment than by splitting the atom.

The project still has a long way to go before electric power is generated from the energy released by atoms fusing. This is not the immediate objective.

The Common Market countries have pooled resources to succeed where national research has failed and convince a growing number of doubters that nuclear fusion is feasible.

Hans Otto Wüster, 51, born in Wuppertal in the Ruhr, is in charge of the project.

It took the Nine years to agree on the location of Jet, with Britain and West Germany as chief contenders. The loser, it was agreed, would nominate the director.

Applicants included Klaus Traube, a nuclear scientist in the news some years ago when his phone was tapped by the intelligence service.

But the successful candidate could fairly claim to be half-European, having spent the last seven years at CERN, the European nuclear research centre, in Geneva.

Physicist Hans Otto Wüster has gained a reputation for firm management and a temperament inclined to seek agreement and cooperation.

At CERN he is acknowledged as largely responsible for ensuring that the 400,000m electron volt super proton synchrotron was completed on time last year and within the budget.

Nuclear fusion, Wüster says, may prove a crucial source of future power, and this induced him to apply for the Jet post.

He will not be plunged in at the deep end in Culham. He should have ample time to acquaint himself with the problems of fusion research at his new particle accelerator.

"The initial phase of construction, trials and the first operational experiments should not take more than four to five years," he says.

The going will then grow tougher, he expects: "We will then embark on trials that are very expensive and may prove extremely time-consuming because each new experiment will entail alterations to the equipment."

This should take five years or so, but Western Europe ought by then to be well on the way to mastering the taming of nuclear fusion.

The Nine will have progressed far enough to risk investing even more money in a prototype fusion reactor, he hopes.

But Wüster and his staff of 350 or so, including nearly 100 scientists, cannot guarantee success: "If we could, we would dispense with Jet and build a fusion reactor straight away.

"Our problem is that experiments all over the world in nuclear fusion have yet to power can be generated from the fusion of heavy hydrogen and superheavy hydrogen atoms."

Jet has three main tasks:

– First, the fusion atoms must travel so fast that their mutual repulsion ceases to be an obstacle to fusion, speeds at which they are hotter than the middle of the sun. At between 50 and 100 million degrees centigrade atoms are in a gaseous state known as plasma and no longer encircled by their casing of electrons.

–Second, the Jet-sped atoms must be densely packed to ensure that as many as possible collide and fuse. The density needed is in the order of billions of particles per cubic centimetre.

–Third, temperature and density must be maintained for at least a thousand millionth to a millionth of a second, otherwise the atoms will merely ricochet, not fuse.

Several nuclear fusion research laboratories in both the West and the East bloc have come close to fulfilling one or other of these conditions.

Some, like the Max Planck Plasma Physics Institute in Garching, near Munich, have even succeeded. But none have fulfilled all three requirements simultaneously, or they would have succeeded in starting a fusion reaction, generating the energy that has fired the sun and stars since the beginning of time.

The Common Market countries are now entrusting the Jet laboratories with this task, and Hans Otto Wüster is confident that EEC scientists will help.



Atom robot

Meet Tommy the atomic robot, designed for the Federal Republic of Germany's nuclear "fire brigade." Otherwise known as the MF remote-controlled handling unit, the robot, the latest in a series of devices built by the Karlsruhe nuclear research centre, is a versatile helper. It can get into the most cramped spaces, climb stairs and ramps and move its caterpillar joints to alter its height and length and extend its handling gear. Equipment includes two electric hands, two TV cameras, twin stereophonic microphones, a radiation measuring device and a plug for power tools. (Photo: Kfk)

"Laboratories deal openly with each other," he says. "Cooperation in fusion physics is most encouraging, both nationally and internationally."

Dieter Dietrich

(Münchner Merkur, 1 August 1978)

■ TRANSPORT

Hamburg commuters soon to catch a skytrain



It's like a moon shot," says Hamburger Hochbahn's Fritz Pampel of Hamburg's latest public transport venture: an unmanned, fully computerised overhead railway.

Dr Pampel's exitement is understandable. Hamburg will be the first city to try the new system, so although it may not incorporate space technology, it is cetainly a novel idea.

A prototype has been undergoing trials at Wetter in the Ruhr for some time. Plans for the next stage, the Hamburg pilot project providing a passenger service, are ready.

Hamburg has given the project the go-ahead. So has the Bonn Research Ministry. Finance is the only outstanding problem: the two are still arguing over division of the bill.

A 2.2-kilometre (1 mile 660 yards) circuit in the City-Nord area will have three stations serving a large new commercial area holding thousands of white-collar workers from nine to five.

The overhead railway will cost about DM30m to build and DM2m a year to maintain. Hamburg has offered to pay 10 per cent, Bonn is prepared to pay 75 per cent.

This, Hamburg says, is not enough. The project is mainly experimental and the federal government ought to be prepared to pay 90 per cent.

Once this argument is settled construction teams can install the circuit in time for the international transport fair in Hamburg next summer.

It should prove one of the highlights of the show, the other being a trial section of hovertrain track in the news recently because a local doctor successfully applied for a court order banning construction on environmental grounds. This has now been reversed.

Dr Pampel's overhead railway and the hovertrain have nothing in common except that they are both on pylons. The hovertrain is designed for long-distance routes, the overhead railway strictly for local transport.

It will run over and under and under a track held about eight metres (26ft 3in) aloft by pylons 30 to 40 metres (100 to 130ft) apart.

Cabs on top of the track will run in one direction, cabs under the track in the other. Platforms will be arranged accordingly.

Hamburg is keen to make public transport attractive enough to persuade commuters to leave their cars at home, or at least park at terminals on the city outskirts and travel to work by public transport.

The new overhead railway is envisaged as complementing the existing underground and suburban electric railway networks.

There are about a dozen parts of Hamburg where the relatively inexpensive overhead railway could provide a useful service, but City-Nord is particularly well suited.

It is a conglomeration of office blocks to which 25,000 people commute, but there is plenty of open space through which the overhead track can pass.

And it is not a residential area, so the railway will not upset residents who might form groups to campaign against the railway because it disturbs their peace.

Overhead railways of this kind are nothing new. Hopelessly outdated systems still run in Tokyo and Turin. It is computerisation that brings new dimensions.

The Hamburg overhead will be unmanned and fully automatic. Cabs will be powered by electricity and run at 50 km/h (30mph).

It will be quiet and run by a small staff. Cabs can run either according to timetable or on pushbutton demand. The longest wait will be three minutes.

Hamburg's cabs will seat 12 and the system can handle up to 17,000 passengers an hour. In the rush hour cabs will be only seconds apart.

Engineering giants such as Demag and Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm have invested at least DM100m in research and development

The Hamburg trials will run for at least two years. If the system is a success the network can be extended to ten and later 30 kilometres.

Politicians and transport specialists all over the world are interested to see whether the Hamburg experiment will stem the tide of congested city-centre traffic.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 31 July 1978)



Over and under: skytrain planned for Hamburg's City-Nord area will have cars top and bottom running in different directions and be fully computerised. (Photo: MBB)

Bonn backs the bikers

A fair deal for cyclists is called for in a town planning report published by the Bonn Housing Ministry. The bike could prevent city traffic from grinding to a chaotic halt, planners are told.

The report, entitled The Bicycle in Local Traffic, concludes that in built-up areas with heavy traffic the bicycle is frequently the fastest and most flexible transport.

Cars or buses are only appreciably faster or more convenient over distances of more than four kilometres (two-and-a-half miles).

Cyclists have no trouble with traffic jams or parking bicycles are inexpensive, energy-saving and environmentally sound.

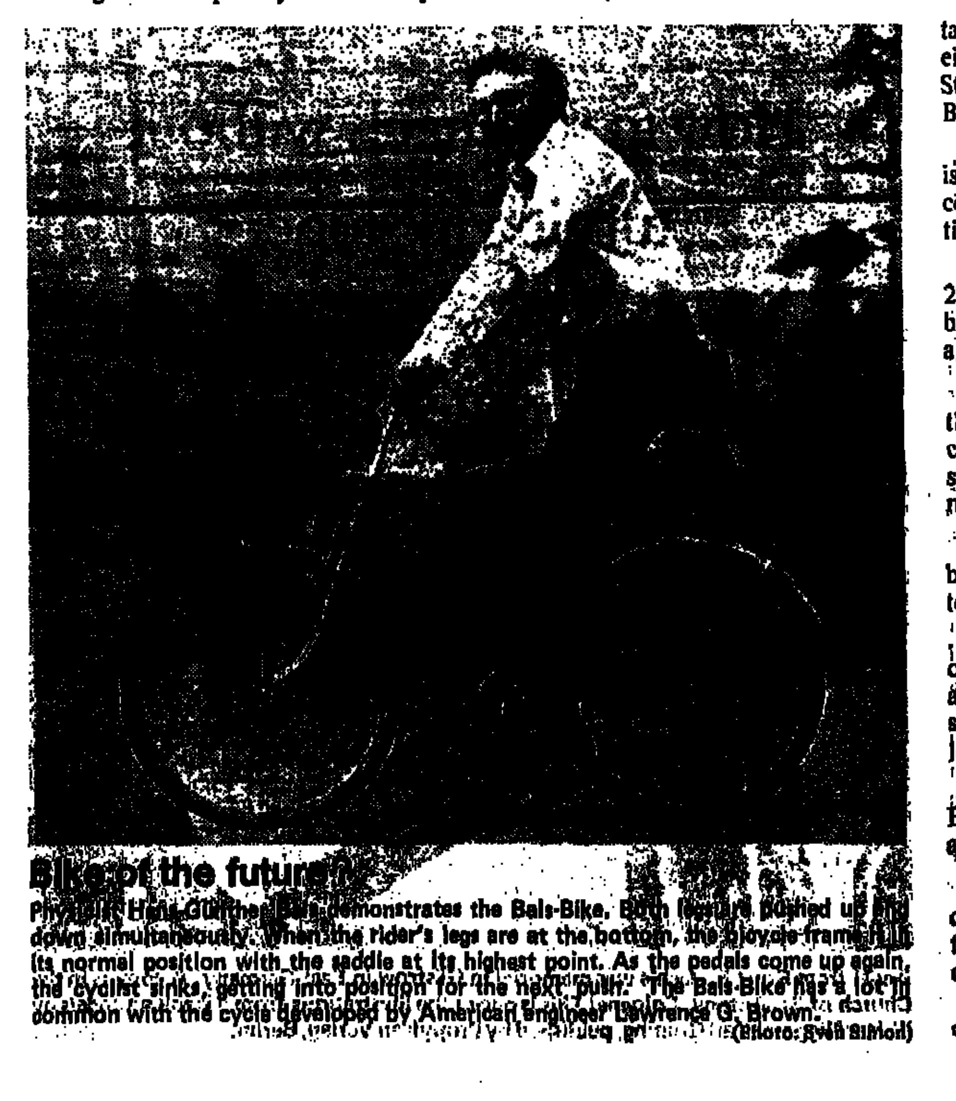
Cycling is healthy too, so the Housing Ministry feels there is every reason for backing a renaissance of the bike in town. Local authorities are advised to extend cycle paths to an easily recognisable network linking most parts of town.

Cycle paths the report says, should ideally be provided for between 30 and 35 per cent of the road network.

Facilities for cyclists in urban areas have not kept pace with the increase in their number in recent year, it concludes.

Einar Koch

(Münchner Merkur, 2 August 1978)



Bike of the future?

Physicist Hans-Günther Bals demonstrates the Bals-Bike. Both legs are pushed up and down simultaneously. When the rider's legs are at the bottom, the bicycle frame is in its normal position with the saddle at its highest point. As the pedals come up again, the cyclist sinks, getting into position for the next push. The Bals-Bike has a lot in common with the cycle developed by American engineer Lawrence G. Brown. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Pushbutton bus service on trial

DIE WELT

Wunstorf, near Hanover, population 36,000, has buses running on pushbutton demand since 5 August when timetables were scrapped. Services now no longer even operate along regular routes.

Buses now travel the shortest route between stops at which passengers have hailed them by dialling a code number.

The are fitted out with Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm equipment and charge normal fares for the distances they cover.

The computer system, known as Retax, is to operate for an experimental eight months. It was opened by Erwin Stahl, parliamentary state secretary to the Bonn Transport Ministry.

The experiment will cost DM5m and is based on a process computer that converts bus stop signals into instructions to the drivers of the five buses.

The buses are eight-seaters and serve 22 stops in the Wunstorf area. They can be called either by phone or by dialling a destination code at the stop.

The computer works out how long the nearest bus should take to reach the caller and flashes a digit on to a monitor screen to indicate waiting time in minutes.

"Over the distances we cover the next bus cannot take longer than six minutes to reach the stop," a staff member says.

Provided you know the code number of your own bus stop, you can also order a bus by phone. Services operate non-stop from 6am to 10.30pm and are logged and supervised by computer.

The only unknown factor, says Bonn's Erwin Stahl, is how passengers feel about the service.

If the experiment works and proves commercially viable it may be extended to the outskirts of other cities as an accompaniment to timetable services.

Wolfgang Meyer

(Die Welt, 8 August 1978)

ART

A look at the magic poems of Marc Chagall

An exhibition of Marc Chagall's work at the Haus der Kunst in Munich shows 67 gouaches, including pictures in which Chagall used watercolours, crayon and chalk, plus three wall tapestries woven from his designs, and 142 lithographs and etchings.

An unitiated visitor might be inclined, on the basis, of what he sees here, not to take Chagall's art seriously. The "constructive" side of his work is not on show. It should be remembered that in his young days in Paris, when his studio was in La Ruche, he described himself as a constructivest.

As early as this, Chagall had already acqured the nickname "the poet" in Bohemian circles in Paris. The characteristic poetry which pervades his work, this mixture of Russian and Jewish-Chassidic legend, the delights of the country and mystical piety was far more powerful and pronounced in his early work and gave him a special position in his disputes with the fauvists and cubists.

An element of surrealistic poetry was visible in his work, but Chagall's dreams came from different psychic strata than the over-individualised dreams of Western, city-dwelling surrealists.

Compared with their longings and complexes, Chagall's dreams were collective in nature, religiously inspired. Their typical mixture of memory and legend made them easier to understand, more accessible. They were new fairy tales telling age-old stories. Chagall repeated in his drawings the figures and symbols that occur in his paintings.

Whenever he was at all interested in the individual, whenever experiences an impressions, dreams and meditation inspired him, he immediately put the contemplator of his word on the right track. In his book on Chagall, Haftmann speaks of the evocative nature of Chagall's works. The paintings evoke thoughts and ideas and awaken associations.

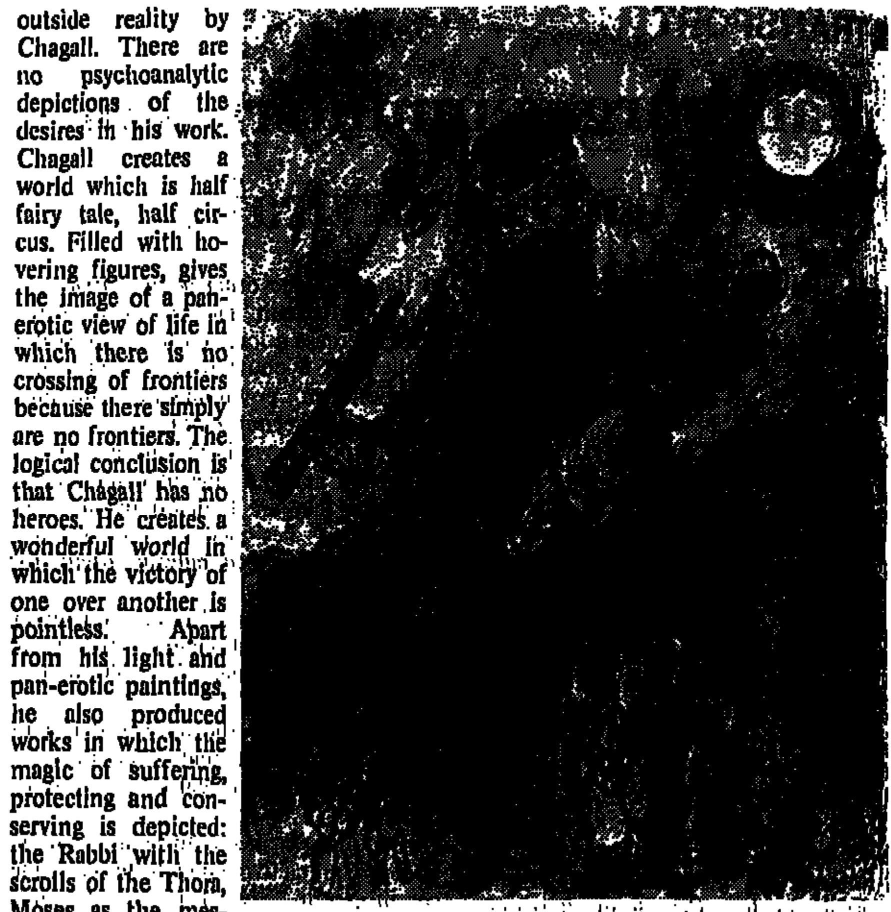
The secret of Chagall's success and of his popularity is the way he formulates the non-definitive. His paintings are through-stations, remarkably transparent and easy for the contemplator to pass through. Particularly in his late work, to which the Munich exhibition is devoted, the contemplator has the freedom to penetrate the paintings.

None of the perspectives oblige us to view the painting in a particular way. There is no naturalistic depiction of things which imposes limits on our longings. The legend of man and woman as one being recurs again and again, as does the depiction of how the difference between the sexes is overcome. Everything Chagall draws or paints is eroticised, the magic of his poetry is everywhere.

The limits of these longings seem to be symbolised by the ass, which reminds us of Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream or the ass in the Russian village or the little old town of Witbesk. This ass appears once as a human mask and even with a hand which pulls a sledge. It is not subject to the laws of gravity.

The cock is sometimes represented with huge eyes, sometimes with a painting on its feathers. We never know whether this image is hidden within or wether the cock carries it around him. The cock belongs in the same category of erotic symbols as the twisted heads, the flying fish and the sirene – a mix- ture of fish, bird, man and angel – which hovers in the clouds playing the violin. This creature is not an ominous monster but a delightful dream.

The suffering from Eros, the basic reason for all human tragedy, is always left outside reality by Chagall. There are no psychoanalytic depictions of the desires in his work. Chagall creates a world which is half fairy tale, half circus. Filled with hovering figures, gives the image of a pan-erotic view of life in which there is no crossing of frontiers because there simply are no frontiers. The logical conclusion is that Chagall has no heroes. He creates a wonderful world in which the victory of one over another is pointless. Apart from his light and pan-erotic paintings, he also produced works in which the magic of suffering, protecting and conserving is depicted: the Rabbi with the scrolls of the Thora, Moses as the messenger of God, Christ crucified as the symbol of all suffering that men inflict on one another.



Marc Chagall's *The Music*, on show at Munich's Haus der Kunst. (Photo: Katalog)

Only one, with the naivety of the believer could portray the cross in a snow-covered war landscape in the middle of Paris or show the flight of the children of Israel as ending at Golgotha, as if Chagall were making up for an unfulfilled prophecy.

This is all depicted quietly, almost incidentally, with the natural simplicity of one man among many, of a painter who has not allowed his religious memory to be corrupted by intellect.

In these works, Chagall is meditating on his own origins and unbringing: he did not abandon anything when his eastern mentality encountered the West, he simply amalgamated the dispatate and contradictory elements. This is the eminently Russian aspect of Chagall.

With few exceptions, the works on show in Munich were all produced in the last 25 years. The graphic for the Bible and the Circus, which Vollard urged Chagall to do, were printed later by Teriade. Over the years the style became more relaxed, lighter in colour, more open in drawing.

The gouaches, which for Chagall have the function of sketches, attained greater mellowness. The old town of *Witbesk* gradually merged into St Paul de Vence, the painter's home on the Mediterranean. Only the place changed. The symbols, the East-West mixture of life and dream, remained.

In a lithograph he did last year, Chagall portrayed the artist with a third eye. That was no accident but a homage to Mnesosyne, whose dearest child he is in this century.

Doris Schmidt

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 August 1978)

How to see angels without turning to stone

Walter Nigg (text) and Karl Gröning (illustrations) have just produced a book on angels entitled *Bleibt ihr Engel, bleibt bei mir* (Stay, you angels, stay by me), which shows that not all angels are alike.

Firxt there are the cherubim, the elite among the heavenly host. They hover around God, guard Paradise and the Ark of the Covenant. Their four wings all have eyes so that nothing escapes their attention.

The archangels are the more human of the princes of heaven. They appear as knights, beautiful women or wanderers and announce God's messages to the people.

Michael is the guardian angel of Israel. On earth he accompanied Christ, in heaven he weighs the souls of the dead and decides who is redeemed and who is damned.

Gabriel is the proclaimer of joyful events. He told Zacharias that John would be born and he foretold the birth of Jesus to Mary.

Raphael wanders with a pilgrim's staff through the world and protects little children. He advised the young Tobias to catch a fish in the Tigris, to take out its liver and gall and to keep them with him as medicine.

When Jacob had brought his two wives, two maids and eleven children home, he remained by the banks of the Jabbob and brooded until night fell.

Suddenly a fearsome angel appeared, approached him, stood before him and struck him. Jacob struck him back. Then the two wrestled with one another throughout the night. It is a fight to the death. The angel shouted "Let me go!" and broke Jacob's hip. But Jacob would not let go and shouted back: "I will not let you go unless you give me your blessing."

When the sun rose, the fight was over. The angel blessed his opponent and said: "Thou shalt be called Israel for thou hast fought resolutely with God and man." Jacob limps off with his broken hip and mutters happily: "I have seen God."

Jacob's opponent was in all probability an archangel, a messenger of God who is at the same time God in the form in which he shows himself to man.

In their homage to the heavenly host Nigg and Gröning tell the story of the angels, of the fiery creatures of the Old Testament whose archaic wildness terrified men. They explain how the representation of angels was based on the winged lion figures from Anterior Asia and on Nike, the Greek goddess of victory.

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Angel from Ernst Barlach's war memorial in Güstrow in East Germany. A copy is in the Church of St. Antony, Cologne. This is one of the illustrations from a book on angels by Walter Nigg and Karl Gröning, published by Propyläen Verlag, Berlin.

CULTURE

Unusual look at life and times of the Sahara

The Cologne Kunsthalle is showing an exhibition called "The Sahara – 10,000 years of desert and pasture," the biggest of its kind to be put on in Europe.

Research in the Sahara, a seven to eight million square kilometre belt which separates the Arabian part of North Africa from central Africa, is in most people's minds synonymous with the search for oil.

In fact oil is only one side of the preoccupation with this desert, the largest in the world.

The public knows very little about the other aspects of Sahara research, even though German Kaiser Wilhelm II was interested in it while living in exile in Doorn in Holland.

Research on the history of the desert first began in the 19th century as a side-product of colonial expeditions into Africa. The results are now on show at the Cologne exhibition, the first exhibition of this size put on in Europe.

The idea was to demonstrate how totally dependent man is on his natural environment. Surroundings finally determine the forms of human life, as the difference between life in the Sahara in its humid and dry periods demonstrates. Rock paintings provide proof of the transition from humidity to aridity.

The dessication of what is now the Sahara desert began about 2500 B.C. At about this time the flight of the inhabitants of the Sahara into the Nile valley began. Those who remained behind adopted a nomadic form of life, the centres of which were the remaining waterholes, the oases with their date palms and millet seed plantations.

The Cologne exhibition illustrates the transformation from the green Sahara to the yellow Sahara of today. The display is the result of interdisciplinary cooperation between ethnologists, geographers, prehistorians and zoologists.

It was organised by the Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum of Ethnology, the Cologne University Institute of Early and Prehistoric History, the Zoological Research Institute and the Alexander König Museum in Bonn.

The vegetation of subtropical green Sahara 2,500 years before Christ consisted of deciduous trees such as oaks and elms, with an animal population similar to that of central Africa today: giraffes, rhino and crocodiles. The most sensational discovery by Sahara researchers in recent years was proof that this African region had its own culture.

It was long believed that the Sahara's cultural development was basically in the Egyptian and Ethiopian tradition, but the latest Sahara research on show at Cologne shows that the Sahara had a culture of its own thousands of years before the Egyptian high culture developed.

Archeology in the Sahara has to rely on surface finds because archeologists cannot excavate as in Europe and West Asia. A mallet found in the sands of the desert is the first evidence of human activity in the Sahara. With its aid, the first drawings were carved into the rocks.



Sahara rock drawing shows men, women, children and cattle and dogs, domesticated animals for farm life. (Photo: Katalog)

The way people adapted to changes in the environment is particularly evident in the sequence of rock pictures through the millenia and the representations of animal life. First come wild animals, then cattle and dogs, domesticated animals for farm life.

As the period of dessication begins, horses predominate and by the time it is complete the camel, an import from Asia, appears in the drawings.

The first drawing of human beings from about 5000 BC is one of the most interesting exhibits, apart from the discovery of Saharan ceramic art.

The sensation of the Cologne exhibition is a small sculpture from the period between 4000 and 3000 BC which proves that animal sculptures existed long before the beginning of ancient Egyptian sculpture.

Sahara researchers have so far been unable to find out anything about the religion of the Saharan population. The Saharan art of 10,000 years ago we can only interpret as aesthetic, we know nothing of its possible religious significance.

This exhibition with its many originals, copies, photographs, drawings and models in an eye-opener for those who thought that the Sahara was always an arid region hostile to human life.

W. Stauch-v. Quitzow

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 30 July 1978)

Continued from page 10

tory. They tell of famous apparitions of angels: in the 15th century, for examples Saint Francisca saw an angel hovering above Rome in a misty veil.

Francis of Assisi saw a seraph on Monte Alverna who revealed to him a secret word which he took with him to the grave. From that day on he had Christ's wounds on his hands and feet.

An angel pierced Saint Theresa of Avila's heart with a glowing arrowhead and she fainted.

No-one has ever given a precise description of these heavenly messengers. In the Apocalypse and in Matthew's Gospel they wear clothes of clouds and rainbows and are wrapped in snow and lightning. Throughout the centuries artists have represented angels as symbols of perfection and purity, power and grace, imagination and beauty. Such are the angels portrayed by Raphael and Rembrandt, Fra Angelico and Leonardo, Klee and Chagall, whose paintings of angels are reproduced in this book.

There is a good reason why angels have never been described accurately. When the 90-year-old Saint Anthony wanted to visit Paul in 351 AD a wolf led him through the desert. When they arrived, Paul had just died. Anthony and two lions dug a grave and put the body in it. When Anthony broke down in grief, angels came down from heaven and consoled him. From then on Anthony told men: "You would turn to stone if you saw their beauty."

Birgit Lahann

(Welt am Sonntag, 6 August 1978)

Linguist digs up roots of language

The men of the Stone Age had a common basic vocabulary and spoke only one language. As human language obeys the laws of continuity, archetypes of words from this original pre-Babylonian language can be found in all of the world's languages, according to Richard Fester of Berlin, founder of the science of palaeolinguistics.

Herr Fester believes there are six archetypes of these words from the original stone age language: *Ba, Kall, Tal, Os, Acq* and *Tag*. He describes these words as linguistic fossils, words which have survived throughout the ages.

Stone Age men got by with a simple language with a small vocabulary. One word often had a large number of meanings. In Europe Stone Age man lived in caves for thousands of years. The circumstances were so favourable that later generations, looking back, spoke of a golden age. Stone Age man lived in a kind of paradise with a subtropically mild climate. The rock paintings in France from this period show lions, elephants, rhino and giraffes. Men are pictured naked.

In the valleys nearer the glaciers, we find paintings of reindeer, mammoths and other deer. The temperatures in Stone Age man's caves were 14 to 16 deg c. throughout the year. Many of the caves in mountains were near waterfalls or lakes so that there was drinking water readily available.

The great catastrophe occurred 11,000 or 12,000 years ago. The security of the cave world disappeared in chaos as the earth shifted its axis. The planet's attempt to regain its spherical shape led to movements in the central part of the earth's crust.

Geologically speaking, this was of no great significance but it had disastrous results for the human race. The Spanish world for terror records these events: the literal meaning of *asombro* is "shadowing over." The Greek word *catastrophe* has the same basic meaning of "turning down". And the German word *bestürzt*, meaning shocked, literally means to be shaded or buried.

The archetypes of words from the first language are to be found in the names of rivers and lakes. In the south of France near Stone Age caves there a surprisingly large number of place names end in *ac* or *acq*, meaning water.

Fester has discovered more than 2,000 names of this kind, names which also occur frequently north of the Pyrenées, which were once free of ice. But they do not occur on the south side, which was covered with ice. There was no water there. Stone Age men used *acq* to describe streams, rivers, lakes, seas, puddles and rain.

The word for water also occurs in the place names Aachen, Achern, Schönaich, Hausach, Wolfach, and Lindach, in the river name Salzach, in the name of Acheloos, the Greek river god, and in Acheron, the Greek name for the river of the underworld. The Indian names Achuga and Achomari indicate that these tribes lived in areas where water was plentiful.

The word kall meant hollow, cavity, narrow pass, and also woman and many other things. Is it then surprising that in Hebrew kallah means bride, and that in Yiddish kalle is the name of the beloved?

Then there is the English word skull. The word kalyx in Geek meant a dome. The Greek name for a habitation, that is, a cave, was kalia. In Scots Gaelic a wise old woman is a keallach.

Biblical legend ascribes the confusion of tongues to the building of the tower of Babel. This is not far from the truth. When the movements of the earth's crust forced men out of their caves they were forced to build their own caves, huts or houses. The original language was also affected by this new situation and many tongues developed from one.

The men of the Stone Age were quite different from the cliché image many people have. They were not aggressive orang-outang-like creatures who went around beating one another with clubs. They were not at all like car-drivers, whom a university professor has compared to Stone Age men. Stone age men were peaceful.

The cave bear lived under one roof with his human neighbours. Occasionally the Stone Age men killed one of the bears while it was hibernating, but this crime was accompanied by elaborate rituals in which Stone Age man attempted to placate the angry world-mother. The bones of bears were found in a remote part of Mas d'Azel, hidden here by cavemen so that the world-mother or the eyes of the gods would not be able to see them.

dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 31 July 1978)

■ SOCIETY

Psychologist's 'failing' of policemen angers union

Bremer Nachrichten

Can a police psychologist form a better judgment of a person's ability, mastery of his occupation, character and leadership potential than six experienced policemen who have worked with him for years?

The Bremen City Council seems to think so, because it rejected two out of 20 candidates for the senior police grade because a psychologist had given them only average marks. The men had been described as top candidates by a committee of six senior policemen. The Police Union has decided to fight the case.

Herr Oelkers, chairman of the Bremen district of the union, says: "We have noticed on several occasions that psychologists had the final say in who was selected for the senior police grade. The candidates they rejected were not even allowed to sit the examination."

The situation was now even more one-sided, he said, A single psychologist had overruled the judgment of six experienced police officers and several preliminary judgments.

The union not only hopes that the Administrative Court will grant an injunction allowing the two candidates to take part in the training for the senior police grade which begins this month. It also hopes that there will be a change in selection procedures.

Herr Volksmann, the lawyer representing the union, says: "It is simply not right that two highly qualified men's chances of promotion should be ruined merely on the basis of the psychologist's judgment."

In his opinion, the documents on the candidate's personal and professional qualities and the judgment of their superiors should have counted for more than the psychologist's opinion. He also expressed serious reservations about the worth of psychological tests in general: "Psychology as a science is not yet so far advanced that these tests can be regarded as definitive, objective and reliable judgments of personality with minimum margins of error."

The sensation at police headquarters occurred after the council had advertised six posts for the senior police grade. Twenty candidates were admitted to the test, all with considerable experience and judged to be "well suited" to senior work.

In May they had to take tests lasting 200 minutes in which the psychologist tested intelligence, personality, ability to take stress, concentration, organisational ability, work economy and leadership potential. At the beginning of June the candidates had private talks with the psychologist.

Fortunately, they were not told the results, otherwise most of them would not have dared to appear before the examination board in Rotenburg at the end of June. The psychologists had given thumbs down for 12 of the 20 candidates. He gave them a mark, which meant they were disqualified from taking any further part of the examination because their marks were not high enough.

In Rotenburg the candidates had to give a talk before the police chiefs and to act as discussion leaders in a forum. The subjects for the talks had been decided beforehand and candidates could only choose between two. At the end of the test, the policemen gave the 12 rejected by the psychologist marks ranging from 1 to 3 (very good to fair). One of the men who has complained was judged the best of the candidates and the second was the second best in a group of ten.

Union chairman Oelkers says the head of the CID has since suggested that leading officials of Bremen and the police should come together to produce a new set of exam regulations. He fears experienced policemen will have little chance of promotion if they can be written off by a psychologist in the preliminary stages.

The policemens' lawyer, Dr. Volkmann, attaches considerable importance to a remark the psychologist is alleged to have made to one of the candidates that he had been "too soft" in a previous selection, had been criticised for this and wanted to set far higher standards this time.

"This remark shows how much the results depend on the tester's attitude and therefore how easily they can be manipulated," says Dr Volkmann.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 5 August 1978)

Family life can create a terrorist – psychiatrist

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Family circumstances can be decisive in a young person becoming a terrorist, according to the article by a Heidelberg academic in the magazine *Family Dynamics*.

Helm Stierlin of Heidelberg University agrees with historian and terrorism expert Walter Laqueur that there is no point in seeking "the terrorist personality" but considers it quite possible that knowledge of a terrorist's family background can provide vital clues to his development.

Stierlin says that superficially these families do not appear to be disturbed or pathological. On the contrary. In terms of achievements and the social status of some members they are superior to many families. But on closer examination this prominence and superiority turns out to be the cause of serious problems and conflicts.

Stierlin treats at length the family backgrounds of Andreas Baader, Ulrike Meinhof and Gudrun Ensslin. He says of Baader that within the framework of a conventional psychiatric diagnosis he might be classified as an immature, unscrupulous personality. In his case there was a clear long-term family "dynamic constellation" which could explain his fate.

In Ulrike Meinhof's case, too, Stierlin finds increasing pressure and stress, particularly strong during her childhood.

These pressures and conflicts could partially explain her opting for terrorism. In Gudrun Ensslin's case, Stierlin talks of her "being torn inwardly by intense conflicts of loyalty."

Another article in the magazine analyses the results of a poll among students at Heidelberg University. Most extreme left-wing students come from educated, middle class backgrounds. Most were rejected by their parents. In many cases they had strong emotional ties to one parent.

The result is that they feel they have been treated unjustly, hindered or dominated. They feel extreme hatred for the parent whom they believe has frustrated them. They were brought up freely at home, allowed a large amount of personal freedom and not required to conform strictly to bourgeois norms and values.

The report says the following process frequently takes place: the parent they at first felt close to and who then rejected them is hated. Despite this, there is identification with this parent (the aggressor). The young person cannot accept this identification and feels his or her own identity threatened. A critical situation arises in which all kinds of suicidal fantasies occur which promise liberation from the hated parent.

Rudolf Grimm
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 27 July 1978)

What the doctors ordered...

A psychologically disturbed young man in Schleswig-Holstein received treatment consisting of a weekly state-subsidised visit to a prostitute.

The experiment was not a success and the treatment was stopped, says Dr Manfred in der Beeck of the Schleswig-Holstein Land Hospital in an article in the magazine *Selecta*.

Dr in der Beeck says ironically: "Whatever else one may say about the Northern Lights (the people of Schleswig-Holstein), no-one can accuse them of being reactionary in social politics."

The young man who received the unusual therapy came from a poor, fatherless family. His failures in various ways had led to frustration. After leaving secondary modern school he started a number of apprenticeships but did not complete them, and failed to complete some less demanding training courses in a vocational training centre and a workshop for the handicapped.

After the breakdown of a homosexual relationship with a young man his own age, he sought contact with the opposite sex. On one occasion he put his hand up a girl's skirt on the staircase of a department store, was arrested and sent to hospital for treatment.

The doctors diagnosed not only excessive sexual excitability with tendencies towards improper behaviour, but also hebephrenia.

This is a form of schizophrenia which begins imperceptibly during or just after puberty. The symptoms are increasing impoverishment of motivation, emotional desolation and strange and unpredictable tics. There are no obsessions or illusions as in the case of schizophrenia. The doctors rated the chances of curing him as poor.

According to In der Beeck, the health authorities wanted the young man sent to a live-in workshop.

The psychiatrist who was treating him disagreed. On the advice of an institute for sexual research, he said that instead of being given desire-inhibiting drugs the young man should be given the opportunity to visit a prostitute once a week. The Welfare Office agreed and prevailed on the health authorities to give their agreement.

An examination of the law showed that a visit to the brothel at state expense would be perfectly legal as long as the purpose was to help the young man to integrate, or as "any further measure prescribed by a doctor for the prevention, elimination or reduction of a handicap," or as "assistance towards participation in the life of the community" (paragraph 40 of the Bonn Social Assistance Act).

The authorities were not prepared to allow the young man more than DM20 a week for his visits. This was all he needed as all he required was petting. For the authorities' files, the prostitute gave the young man a receipt for "sexual assistance" after each session.

The prostitute-cum-therapist could not cure the young man. After six months of treatment a diplomatic stop was put to his weekly visits to the red-light district. It had been belatedly realised that a person cannot simply be treated as a sex machine and sent along to a prostitute to indulge in a physiological process. A therapeutic plan should have been worked out.

Gerd Sowein
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 2 August 1978)

■ ISSUES

Self-help group attack on unemployment despair

In Stuttgart, Ulm and Göppingen unemployed people have set up self-help groups to discuss problems.

A 55-year-old woman in a Stuttgart group said: "I look forward tremendously to coming here on Wednesdays." She spoke as enthusiastically as if this were a turning point in her life. The meetings had given her "a bridge to new directions", she said and her enthusiasm was so direct and open that scepticism would have been out of place.

"All the people here are understanding and willing to listen, we can help one another and we even laugh sometimes."

The members of the group, about 25 people between 25 and 60, gave different reasons why they found their weekly meetings important, but were unanimous in that they were important. It sounded rather like a self-help group of the physically disabled or handicapped talking about their progress in overcoming their suffering, progress they would have been unable to make alone.

Yet when one looks at these people, there is no way of telling what their common problem is. The public knows very little about unemployment – no more than the dry statistics published every month.

The aim of the group is to jointly reduce the stress of unemployment. It takes time for people to become aware of the psychological effects of unemployment and then they have to learn to speak about them. This expression of problems is the main liberating experience.

The group consists of people who have mostly been out of work for a long time, often for years. They suffer from the way society, friends family and often they themselves repress the problem of being out of work.

The Stuttgart group quoted the case of a man who, though out of work, still got up at 6am, went out and bought his roll for breakfast and then drove off, so that no-one would find out that he had lost his job.

Members of the group told me that, apart from their own family, they did not want their relatives or friends to find out that they had lost their jobs. They were reluctant to give their names because this would mean the illusion they had gome to such lengths to maintain would be destroyed.

One woman said that during they day she often went out into the country to avoid the constant questions of those who knew she was out of work.

At conferences at the Bad Boll Protestant Academy, a number of unemployed decided that they should try to break out of their isolation and organise themselves into groups. After lengthy talks they decided to hold regular meetings to discuss problems and tell the public about their plight.

At the end of the Bad Boll conference, a number of unemployed formed the Stuttgart self-help initiative. The difference between it and other groups of unemployed formed last year is that it does not work with social workers but is autonomous.

One member said: "Some of the professionals have an interest in our staying unemployed." Then there was the danger that the unemploye would merely be administered and unable to develop initiative.

That members only seek advice from social workers but do not allow them to run the group or tell them what to do boosts their self-confidence considerably. The minutes of a recent meeting of ten such groups in Bad Boll reads: "One of the main problems for all these groups is the constant struggle against loss of self-respect."

This is why taking part in meetings is for many a way of regaining self-confidence. Being unemployed is hard work. One member says: "Before these meetings I used to consider myself a complete nobody."

The Stuttgart group's meetings last several hours and usually begin with a general chat on subjects from politics to holidays to insomnia. Members enjoy being able to talk freely and openly.

The scope of the weekly programme is wide. Often Bundestag MPs are invited. Instead of being speakers, they are mostly attentive listeners. The minutes of a meeting with Bundestag MP Manfred Wörner (CDU) read: "Dr Wörner was clearly astonished at these matter and took notes."

Since realising how little notion of their problems even those professionally involved with them have, the group been worked hard on information. The director of the Stuttgart welfare Office has addressed them, labour exchange officials come along and hear complaints about being offered and expected to take work below members' professional and income level.

After each phase of unemployment, the employee sinks lower. His social standard goes down by degrees. One member said his income had slumped from DM5,000 to DM800 amonth. Many older members are bitter at the fact that their generation, which had to live through World War Two, is now hardest hit by unemployment. "That is to much," one complains.

Trade union representatives have also had to take tough criticism from the Stuttgart group. Members all complained that the unions were not interested in them at all, and that union wage policies and insistence on overtime do not help the unemployed found work.

The unions, they argue, are only interested in improving conditions for those who already have jobs. One member says the greatest foes of the unemployed are those who have jobs: the applause of the others shows they consider this to be the truth.

The group is not only concerned with increasing general awareness of the problems of the unemployed. They want to inform themselves and find ways of improving their lives.

They discussed the question of what jobs they could reasonably be expected to accept with a representative of the labour exchange.

An insurance man explained the possibilities of additional sickness and legal protection insurances.

A pensions expert explains how prolonged unemployment can affect pensions and members discuss with a company psychologist the problems of returning to working life.

No one in the group has given up completely. They would all dearly love to be back at work.

"It would be fine if we could give up this entire initiative altogether," they say. But no-one believes this will be possible. Instead they continue to encourage the unemployed to come out of isolation and build an organisation to give them more influence.

They still have a long way to go. In the minutes of the Bad Boll meeting we read: "It is extraordinarily difficult to bring the unemployed out of their isolation and motivate them to a general commitment beyond their own personal problems."

Theo Wurm
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 2 August 1978)

Jobless get a shot of confidence

The Federal Institute of Labour in Nuremberg is working with a team of American scientists on a special programme to give the unemployed greater self-confidence and thereby help them find work.

The aim is to help the unemployed to get over their failures and give them a more positive and self-confident approach to interviews. Intensive training in groups of five to eight people lasts about four weeks.

The new programme is also meant to find out how problems such as depression and apathy stemming from unemployment can be tackled.

The Federal Institute says there are 750 officials in the country's labour exchanges working in the "psychological service." Of these about 300 are psychologists, 200 are technical assistants and 250 assistants.

The psychological service supports the professional advice centres by providing reports on and giving advice to work-seekers. It also looks after students who have changed subjects or dropped out, school-leavers with poor results and the physically and mentally handicapped.

Every year 150,000 aptitude tests are carried out so that the wishes and motives of candidates can be taken into account when the labour exchange tries to find them jobs.

At the international applied psychology congress in Munich from 30 July to 5 August, the Federal Institute of Labour had a stand giving information on the work of its psychological service. *dpa*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 3 August 1978)

Isolation of aged worries Opposition

The CDU-CSU has put a parliamentary question to the Bonn government on the situation of old people in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Opposition MPs said public discussion tended to concentrate on the financial position of old people. Many old people were to a large extent isolated, the care of the aged was becoming increasingly institutionalised, and there was "a dangerous escalation of the conflict between the generations."

On the question of earlier retirement, Albert Burger of the CDU said that there was a contradiction between the views of gerontologists and of politicians. Gerontologists said that being able to stop work earlier conferred little benefit.

The Opposition wanted to know the government's response to its view that any further reduction of the flexible age limit for retirement would be discrimination against old people. Bonn should give its view on the possibility of choosing the age of retirement and of regulations giving old people the opportunity to do more part-time work.

Burger said that gerontology in West Germany was underdeveloped: there was not a single university professorship in the subject. Old people should be better prepared for the third stage of life, where loneliness was a great problem. There were 4,577,00 widows and 773,000 widowers in the country.

On the material situation of old people, Burger said there were signs that it had improved but a large number of old people, especially women, lived below the breadline. Statistics showed that in 1980 there would be 180 women to every 100 men over 60. By 1990 there would be more than twice as many old women as old men.

To judge the situation of old people more accurately, the Opposition says Bonn government should find out how many people aged 65 and older living in homes and hospitals for the aged are not able to pay fees from their savings and are dependent on social aid.

Moving into an old people's home should not be synonymous with going to the social security office, Gerhard Braun of the CDU said. It was important to ensure that old people lived in familiar surroundings as long as possible.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 4 August 1978)

■ TOURISM

Bonn campaign fights 'Ugly German' image

Fifteen million Germans will take their summer holidays abroad this year. Why not use them as honorary ambassadors for their country, the government press and information office in Bonn wondered.

It commissioned an advertising campaign based on cartoons by Pit Flick and designed to remind holidaymakers of the anti-German prejudice they are most likely to encounter, and to suggest answers to the most frequent allegations.

Direct elections to the European Parliament are to be held next year, so Bonn feels it is high time everyone tried to dispel the illusions European neighbours still harbour about the Ugly German.

Preliminary market research on how foreigners saw the Germans revealed, gratifyingly, that the Germans were not as ugly as had been feared.

The first of a series of five double-page advertisements in a wide range of magazines recently appeared, in which hundreds of German holidaymakers are seen arriving at their sun-drenched destination by road and air, sporting an assortment of cameras, skin-diving equipment and other items.

Their hosts are there to welcome them with posters in pidgin German proclaiming that beer and coffee, sausages and sauerkraut are on the menu.

The government's advice to holidaymakers is to talk to the locals and not keep to themselves in sand-castles and menageries of their own making.

The Times of London has already voiced approval of the campaign's opening shot and aims. The four remaining adverts each deal with with a specific widespread prejudice about the Germans.

The first is that work is the only thing Germans know how to do properly. The cartoon depicts a nation of construction workers busily bricklaying an enormous D (for Deutschland).

There is something in it, the ad admits. The Germans have worked hard in the past decades to transform bomb-flattened cities into the country they want to live in.

But it is simply not true to say that they are incapable of doing anything else but work. Ninety-two per cent of the workforce work a 40-hour week.

Most work only five days a week, and 88 per cent have four weeks paid holiday a year. Three-quarters of a million Germans have opted to retire at 63 rather than 65.

As for life in the Federal Republic being a capitalist free-for-all, holidaymakers are reminded that a third of the DM200,000 m Bonn budget is spent on welfare.

Besides, there are laws to ensure that the devil does not take the hindmost: the Monopolies Act, worker participation in industrial management, the Works Councils Act, the Rent Act.

The second cliché is best left in German as *Deutschmark, Deutschmark über alles.* The wheels of German holidaymakers' cars and caravans are seen to be deutschemark coins, while the hotelier and restaurateur are waiting to welcome them on donkeys.

The argument Bonn advises holidaymakers to use readily and proudly concedes that the deutschemark is a hard currency and that West Germany is one of the world's most highly-developed industrial countries.

But neighbouring countries benefit from this economic strength. They earn a living from German holidaymakers, for instance. And foreign workers remit money home.

"As for the strength of the German economy, it is not the result of a miracle but of everyone's hard work and of a social climate jointly achieved."

The third cliché is that Germans are know-alls. The cartoon shows a top-of-the-class child in front of an international assembly of classmates. He is unmistakably a little German and could well be Helmut Schmidt's grandson.

The argument recommended is that there are indeed Germans who claim to know everything better: "How best to play soccer, how to manufacture the best cars, how to make the best coffee and so on."

But there is no harm in neighbours exchanging opinions, and the Germans can learn plenty from everyone else: how to resist the temptation to voice their views on all subjects, for instance.

The fourth and final cliché is that Germans cannot rest until everything is strictly ordered. The cartoon shows an old-fashioned and evidently narrow-minded German holidaymaker with the wife, family and dog in command of his sand-castle.

The caption's "My home is my castle" and the sand-castle is bedecked with shells spelling *Burg* (castle) and *Burgfrieden* (truce, precincts of a baronial castle). A few bystanders look on with expressions of amazement.

"True enough, we Germans tend to be orderly and find it hard to convince neighbours that this is a trait to be recommended," the copy explains.

It goes on to advise holidaymakers what to say in arguments about the alleged *Berufsverbot*, or career ban (on political extremists in the public service), which arise, especially with French or Italians.

"There is no such thing as a *Berufsverbot*," the explanation runs, "not even on people who hold politically extreme views. But civil service regulations stipulate that opponents of the democratic state may not be employed."

The ad goes on to say a word about the screening of applicants for civil service jobs, and what it says will not be much to the Opposition's liking: "Yet the time may well have come for us to wonder whether we might not be overdoing the screening of applicants for civil service jobs. Exaggerated reactions by a number of authorities have come in for justifies criticism."

The Opposition, not to be outdone, is distributing roughly a million brochures headed "Holiday Hints" and sub-headed "How to get better value for your deutschemark."

It starts by listing the exchange-rate in the countries most holidaymakers visit, then notes the goods and services that are particularly good value.

This is followed by a potted biography of the deutschemark, the "economic miracle" and the part played by Ludwig Erhard and the Christian Democrats in the post-war years.

It may just be coincidence but it looks very much as though the Christian Democrats' campaign was designed to contrast with the government version.

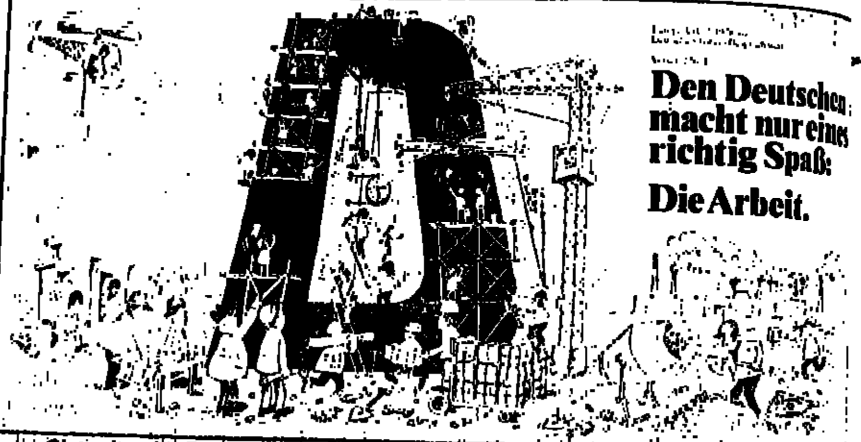
The government campaign is costing about DM2 m and will run for five weeks in magazines with a combined circulation of six million.

But how are holidaymakers to set about outlining these arguments in Italian, Spanish, Serbo-Croat and the like? Germans may have a smattering of English and French, but the rest are definitely foreign languages for the overwhelming majority of holidaymakers.

So, although would-be honorary ambassadors on the sun-drenched beaches of the Mediterranean may have got the message, many of them will be unable to put it across in the local language.

Helmut Herles

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 August 1978)



Changing the German image abroad: hard work, yes, but not as an end in itself.

Badly need a holiday? Stay at home

Münchner Merkur

Summer holidays can cause psychic upsets, the West German Medical Association says in an article in the Cologne quarterly *Medizin heute*.

Many people do not feel up to what ought to be the pleasantest weeks of the year, the article says, taking with them on holiday everyday marital, family and work troubles.

What is more, they wildly exaggerate expectations of holiday happiness and freedom and are disappointed as a result. They can hardly fail to go off the rails the doctors say.

Heinz Prokop, head of medical psychology at Innsbruck University, says we should feel even sorrier for unstable people who are unable to cope with holidays as an "out-of-the-ordinary situation."

Professor Prokop bases this on numerous case histories. The problems holidaymakers are likely to encounter include too many unaccustomed impressions, difficulties and prejudice in coping with people in other countries and the unaccustomed living conditions holidays entail.

"At times," he says, "feelings of homesickness and loneliness can lead to depressive responses."

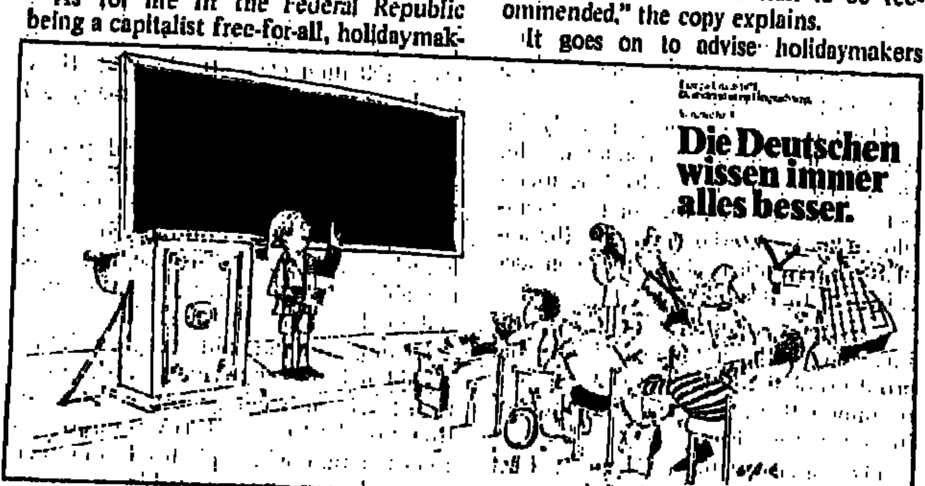
Among young couples problems come to the surface on holiday because the domestic system of checks and balances no longer operates.

So holidaymakers frequently suffer from "vacation psychosis," and, contrary to widespread views, dissatisfaction with the hotel room or holiday weather is never to blame.

But doctors have neither prescriptions nor advice.

Hans Wüllenweber

(Münchner Merkur, 2 August 1978)



Hans the know-all: plenty to learn (how to stop knowing everything, for example).

Die Deutschen ordnen alles. Mit Sicherheit.

My home is my castle: trying to convince others of the value of order.

(Cartoons: Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung)

■ SPORT

Supertrike leaves the opposition standing

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Thirty or 40 years ago motorcycle combinations were the poor man's Volkswagen. Bike and sidecar rattled along on three wheels: not a car, maybe, but a cut above the ordinary motorcycle. But today a new generation of three-wheelers is the talk of the racetracks.

Combinations were less likely to come a cropper and could seat three: two on the bike and one in the sidecar (who had a far safer and more comfortable ride than the pillion passenger, incidentally).

Sidecars also gave sterling service as luggage carriers, and three-wheelers gained a new lease of life as cars and delivery vans.

Tempo and Goliath were the best-known brand-names in post-war Germany. Although they did not always live up to these resounding names, they long remained popular with fruit and vegetable dealers. For years they trundled wares to and from market.

But vehicles on today's roads have either two wheels or four. Even children are reluctant to be seen on a tricycle. The toddler who wants to keep up with the kid next door drives a pedal car or a pint-sized plastic racing car.

Todays three-wheelers still count as motorcycles but look like racing cars, are manufactured like racing cars and travel at racing car speeds.

Rolf Biland of Switzerland, one of the world's best sidecar men for the past four years, and Rolf Steinhausen from Gummersbach, 1976 and 1977 world champion, have completely redesigned their bikes to what are virtually formula racing car specifications.

Biland, a 27-year-old motor mechanic who heads this season's world championship table, surprised sidecar specialists with a vehicle particularly difficult to pigeonhole.

Is it a bike or is it a car? Biland calls it a hybrid. Most of the components are racing car parts: GT wheels and tyres, Formula 2 brakes and Formula 1 struts and shock absorbers. Only the engine, a 500-cc Yamaha, still testifies to the motorcycle connection. But it is a 120-hp engine reaching speeds of up to 280 km/h (175 mph). Acceleration is breathtaking: to 100 km/h (60 mph) from a standing start in 2.1, to 200 km/h (125 mph) in 5.0 seconds. A Formula 1 racing car is only half as quick off the mark. Most people will associate sidecars with leather-clad men (and women) performing feats of acrobatics as the combination hared round corners. Good sidecar men are rare, which is hardly surprising. Rolf Steinhausen, who in crashes, collisions and somersaults has broken more bones over the years than he cares to recall, says he "would never even dream of risking life and limb in a sidecar."

Rolf Biland, third, fourth and second in the world championship ratings over the past three years and, all being well, this season's champ, teamed up with his sidecar man more or less by accident.

He had been unable to find a sidecar man in either Switzerland or Germany, so he travelled to a meeting in England on his own.

Just before the race he arranged for a loudspeaker appeal. Ken Williams volunteered to stand in as sidecar man.

That was four years ago. This season he looks like clinching the world championship with Biland.



Motorcyclist Rolf Steinhausen with his super three-wheeler: how long will this new generation be permitted to race? (Photo: Sven Simon)

Aye, aye skipper

Martina Pieper, 22, of Hamburg, hauls up the mainsail with the air of someone who knows all about it. She should: Martina is the first woman in the Federal Republic of Germany to serve the four-year apprenticeship and qualify as a sailing instructor. She now holds all four tickets of competence in this rapidly growing sport. (Photo: José Camejo)

"He should be ashamed of himself if he does," says Rolf Steinhausen. In the sidecar of Biland's new combination Williams is simply ballast.

All he has to do is weigh the regulation 60 kg (132 lb), not an ounce more, and to sit tight. Acrobatics are no longer required. He does not even have to distribute his weight.

There is no more kneeling, no more lying flat out. He just sits tight in his plastic casing. His only instructions are to hold on and stay put.

Biland's combination is the first in the world to use a two-wheel drive via a rigid axle. Daredevil acrobatics are no longer necessary. His hybrid holds the road without any of that. "I can't install a set of parallel bars just to give the sidecar man something to do," Biland says blandly. Besides, safety is at stake. "Have you ever tried leaning out of a car window at 125 mph?" He pored over the hundreds of pages of international rules and regulations before getting down to work with two designers. They have wrought a complete change in the appearance of one of motorcycling's traditions — much to the dismay of old-timers. When Biland and Williams enter a race the others are virtually out of the running. They are still in a state of shock. Spectators are first taken aback, then annoyed.

"That is not a motorcycle," they grumble. What they miss is the sidecar man's spectacular acrobatics that used to make up a large part of the thrills and spills.

Steinhausen's sidecar man still stretches his limbs a little. "But only for show," says Rolf Biland. Steinhausen, whose new bike is also powered via a two-wheel axle, admits that he can no longer overturn.

"Even if I turn the wheel as far as it will go at 200 km/h, the worst that can happen is that the combination goes into a flat spin. In days gone by we would have flown head over heels."

No definition of a combination

So the new racing three-wheelers are certainly safer than their predecessors. But they are also fast approaching speeds that make experts such as Kurt Bosch, president of the German supreme motorcycle racing commission, shudder.

"We shall have to decide whether or not to continue giving designers a free rein," he says. "The way things are going we are heading into a blind alley.

"We are well on the way to emulating Formula 1, and Porsche have long since tired of winning without interruption in their class."

But calling a halt to developments is easier said than done. Mechanics and designers all over the world are working on improvements that exploit to the utmost the limits prescribed by international rules and regulations.

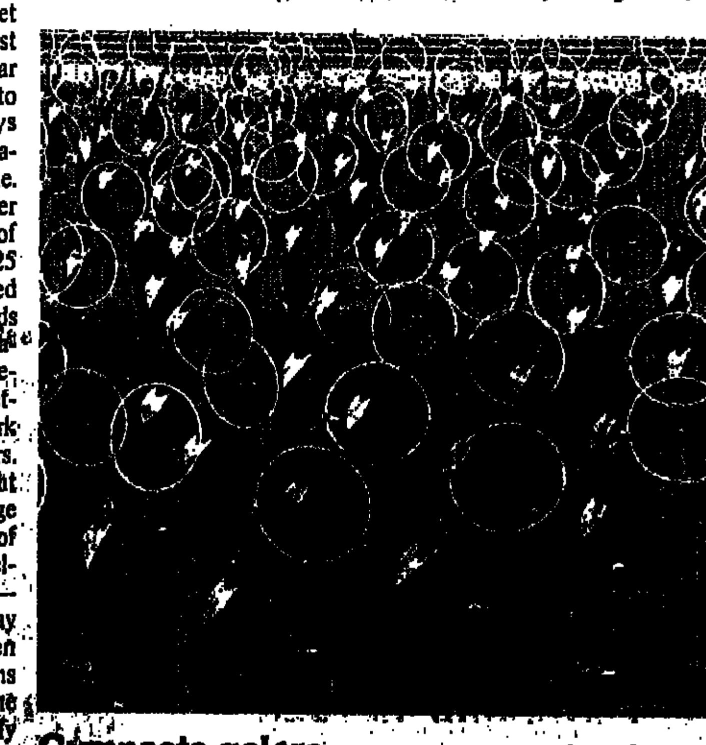
Rolf Biland was merely the first to exploit the major loophole, which is that despite pages of regulations there is no clear definition of what a motorcycle combination should look like.

The next world championship grand prix is at Nürburgring on 20 August, but anyone who wants a chance of winning must be prepared to invest at least DM 100,000 in a new-look model.

He could then forgo the trouble and expense of hiring a sidecar man. A sandbag serves the purpose just as well.

Rolf Heggen

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 August 1978)



Gymnasts galore

Mass display of women gymnasts performing rhythmic exercises at the 21st German gymnastics festival in Hanover. This year 46,000 gymnasts gymnasts from 30 countries took part. (Photo: Sven Simon)